



**Metro
Edition**

Vol. 17, No. 32

Jersey City High School goes high tech

By Gloria Wilson

Snyder High School's Media Arts High Tech Center (MAHT) is located on the third floor in a former cafeteria.

The state of the art, 12,000 square foot, multimillion dollar lab is complete with Apple G4, G3 and iMac computers that are networked through interactive internet LAN. This is the first lab offered anywhere in the nation, and Jersey City high school students will get an opportunity to learn and apply high tech skills, such as building websites, programming hard drives and editing TV shows on desk tops.

The size of the facility is significantly larger than most in order to accommodate a large number of students. With two TV studios and an audio recording facility, the Jersey City facility is the first of its kind anywhere in the U.S., marking a mile stone in a predominantly African American school where most students generally have had little to no exposure to the information super highway. Now they can either tune in to Comcast Cable or log on to the internet to learn about the latest news in their schools.

Most of the software was being specially developed to coordinate with the program, and emanated from specially contracted technicians who were hired to work specifically with Snyder's students.

These are generally skills that are not learned until they reach college, and by that time they are in competition with thousands of international students.

"These are generally skills that are not learned until they reach college, and by that time they are in competition with thousands of international students"

competitive work place.

Among the courses available will be animation, video and multi-media production, multi-track audio recording, radio broadcast, special effects, TV/radio journalism and production.

The center will also have access to Comcast Cable's Channel One as well as other global outlets. High speed Internet connections will provide students a forum for their work.

In the future there will be an exchange program between the Snyder students and the City Technology College Kingshurst in Birmingham, England. According to Jersey City Mayor Richard DiPatri, "This international partnership will enable student to travel to England for two weeks in the summer of their sophomore year."

Kingshurst students will travel to the U.S. to learn and collaborate with the MAHT students.

Students will have to go through a district-level application process to be considered for the magnet program. However, many parents feel it's ludicrous to have a screening process when this knowledge is something every student should have available to them. They're also concerned that African American students already attending Snyder will be chaper screened out or passed over while other students are being brought in from other areas to take advantage of the program.

B1 City Life

Commemorating the 75th Birthday of

Malcolm X



CITY NEWS

Serving New Jersey's African-American communities since 1983

Farakhan's role in Malcolm X's death



By Rob Williams

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan admitted having a role in the assassination of Malcolm X in a "60 Minutes" interview with Mike Wallace.

Farrakhan sat at a table with Wallace and Attallah Shabazz, the oldest of Malcolm and Betty Shabazz's six daughters, and for the first time with a reporter discussed the assassination.

"I genuinely hope a healing can come to Mr. Shabazz and her family. Where I may have been complicit in words I may have spoke, I acknowledge that and regret any word I said causing the loss of life of a human being," Farrakhan said in the interview.

Attallah Shabazz's reaction was not shown, but she released

a statement thanking him for the admission.

"He's never admitted this before publicly. Until now, he never cared my father's children. I thank him for acknowledging his culpability, and I wish him peace," said Attallah Shabazz.

The interview marks the first time Farrakhan has admitted any role in the assassination, after being accused for 35 years by the family and others of being responsible for his death.

Malcolm X was assassinated Feb. 21, 1965 at the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem, in front of his wife and his three oldest daughters, Attallah, the six, Qubilah, four, and Isalah, two. The Shabazz's had a fourth daughter, Anilah, born in 1964, and twin daughters born after the assassination. While speaking at a regular meeting of his organization — Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU) when two men near the stage started a scuffle.

Hold it, brothers! Cool it!" Malcolm X said to the two before one of them pulled out a .45-caliber Luger and shot him. A third man threw a smoke bomb in the air, and a fourth and fifth man rose from the audience and began shooting at Malcolm X until he died.

Farrakhan was first linked after a series of actions that took place before and after the assassination. Two months prior to the assassination, Farrakhan wrote in response articles that appeared in the Final Call.

The dye is set and Malcolm

See FARAKHAN, Page A8

'Amoco investment in blood money'

By Kelly Foster

NEWARK — Rain couldn't stop the approximately 100 people who demonstrated outside the S. Orange Ave. Amoco on April 15, waving signs that announced "Amoco Investment is Blood Money," Amoco Exchanges Off for Blood" and "Stop Slavery." The marchers, parishioners from the Newark Paradise Baptist Church, were protesting Amoco's link to slavery and mass murder in Sudan. The group is planning a boycott of another Newark Amoco station in a few weeks.

BP/Amoco invested \$1 Billion in Petro-China, a subsidiary of the China National Petroleum Company. The CNPC is partner to the Nile Project, an oil project in the Sudan used by the Islamic government to fund its holy war, said Charles Jacobs, President of the American Anti-Slavery Group.

The church's rally successfully shut down the gas station for about four hours. "They lost business," said Reverend Jethro James. "We don't want our dollars going there. They (BP/Amoco) gave \$1 billion knowing the atrocities going on in the Sudan."

"I feel bad and quite sad about the situation," said Marcia Meyers, member of the church and the New Jersey representative to the American Anti-Slavery Group. "A lot of people don't know about Sudan," she said, adding that the group distributed flyers about the situation.

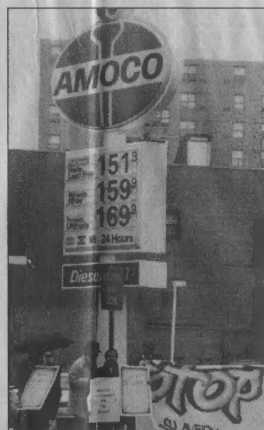
"I felt the rally was necessary. It was effective. We're anti-slavery," said Walter Robertson, chairman of deposed board at Paradise Baptist. "We stopped them from pumping gas."

The Paradise Baptist, along with the AASG, petitioned Governor Christie Whitman to divest New Jersey pension funds from Talisman Energy Co., Canadian partner to the Nile Project. Talisman's stock dropped shortly after, and in January, The State of New Jersey revealed that it had sold all 680,000 shares of its stock.

BP Amoco, in a statement from its London headquarters denied involvement in Sudan.

"BP Amoco has no investment or operations in the Sudan," said John Gore, Vice-President of Government and Public Affairs, in a letter to James. The company said it would support efforts by the Commission on International Freedom to ensure that "investments such as BP Amoco are not transferred to Sudan."

The issue of slavery is related to Sudan's Civil War, which has been raging for the past 17 years.



Protestors shut down Amoco station in Newark. Photo by Jan Johnson

The National Islamic Front Government in the northern area Sudan has been waging a genocide against the predominantly Christian southern part of the country, forcing Christians and followers of traditional religions to convert to Islam.

Thousands of women and children, called "infidels" are seized during raids from their homes as "war booty." Women are enslaved, often turned into concubines and forced into unpaid labor. Men are often shot and killed. Young boys are used as cattle herds. Entire villages are annihilated by bombing, burning, and looting, and villagers are relocated to "peace camps" in the Nuba region of Sudan, where they are often denied food, and are regularly beaten and abused.

See AMOCO, Page A8

Are Black businesses getting their share of SBA loans?

By Gilda Rogers
Staff Writer

The Small Business Administration is touting a "record pace" after recently releasing a lot of numbers that look good on paper, but when given a close read they say something else — the African American is the low man on the loan pole. Although representing the largest minority group in the nation, African Americans were the least served minority population in the United States amongst Hispanics, Asians and women.

Women lead the way, with the SBA approving 170 loans for \$29.3 million compared to African American run businesses receiving 56 approved loans for \$4.6 million. According to the Administration, these statistics indicate a 120 percent increase in loans approved within the African American community in the first six months of its fiscal year in 2000. Twenty-five loans were approved during the same six months in its fiscal year 1999 for African Americans at \$4.2 million. Do the math. This equates a \$400,000 increase, which is less than a million dollars. What these numbers really say is that African Americans have extended more loans at a lower dollar amount than their minority counterparts.

Asian Americans received 135 loans for 39.3 million during the first six months of 2000, while Hispanic Americans received 49 loans (less than the number of black loans approved) for \$7.2 million, which is far more money than African Americans received.

Businesswoman Joan Souels, who owns the Antique Castle in Plainfield and has been in the antique business for 20 years and although a recipient of a SBA loan, she has struggled for many years.

"They SBA may be doing a lot but they could be doing more.

Getting young African Americans to the ballot

By Kiana Kpote

For the last twenty-four years the National Coalition of Black Youth Vote has been working to develop coalitions nationwide that will mobilize African Americans to realize the value of their vote and elect.

But the year 2000 symbolized a time of change—a time when they would change their name and initiate a new vision of civic involvement in the African American community especially among young African Americans.

As of March the coalition became the National Coalition of Black Civic Participation, (NCBCP).

"Part of the reason we changed our name, is that we don't want people to think we were just focusing on voting. We want to focus on the entire voting and democratic process," said Donna Frisby-Greenwood, co-chair of the group's Black Youth Vote advisory board.

Black Youth Vote was created to respond to the low turnout of young African Americans on Election Day. "Our voting electorate is getting younger and younger. The need of young people to vote is great and we need to engage them," said Melanie Campbell, NCBCP's executive director.

Campbell is concerned that young people need to realize the value of their vote and be given the opportunity to debate issues affecting them.

But she gives them credit by adding that they were too apathetic to the political process and that once they are educated they do get involved.

However, the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey ran a black youth ages 18-24, among others, were asked

Candid interview with
Lucy Pearl's
Rafael Saadiq

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In most cases they're not giving equal loans."

However, according to Harry Menta, spokesperson for the SBA, African Americans are applying for smaller deals, which he said the Administration has no control over.

"We can provide them (African Americans) with the money to get their deal off the ground," said Menta. "Do we have to work harder to even the playing field, yes. We are making some headway to get into the community," African Americans make up five percent of all SBA

"When I was struggling with a SBA loan they could've given me a moratorium, but I didn't know this and they don't tell you this."

—Joan Souels

approved loans. Menta said they're looking to increase this number to 10 percent.

Meanwhile, Souels, who has a proven track record, recommends that anyone looking to venture into a business of their own, should make provisions to afford a financial expert — someone who knows the ropes and the ins and outs of the lending business.

"You have to spend some money to get a good financial expert," Souels said. "I've heard ground said Souels. "Someone who knows what the SBA's are supposed to do. Someone to help your business that might be facing a cash-flow problem. When I was struggling with a SBA loan they could've given me a moratorium, but I didn't know this and they don't tell you this. A financial expert knows these things."

Souels commended the

See SBA, Page A8

why they didn't vote. 25.8 percent said they were too busy or didn't get time off, whereas 16.5 percent said they were not interested.

But Black Youth Vote boasts reaching a half million youth each year through outreach activities in the community and college campuses nationwide. "This year we want to implement a strong grassroots campaign around the country to register people young and old and educate them on the political process," said Frisby-Greenwood. The campaign includes pledge cards, which will hold African-Americans to their written promise to register to vote, radio public service announcements, and telephone banking. Frisby-Greenwood also wants to include local radio personalities in helping young people realize how the political process affects them.

The NCBCP has their work cut out for them, trying to reach the many youth who have yet to know what they (NCBCP) do and encouraging youth to vote.

"I've never heard of Black Youth Vote and I don't see the point all these people are doing the same. We have a presidential candidate running a death machine in Texas, and another candidate who wants to keep Elian in the US because he doesn't like Castro," said Wayne Kane, a pharmacy major at Hampton University.

Statements like that bother Cornell Belcher, Director of Special Projects for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and the African American Voter Project. He is concerned with the dismal turnout of young African Americans voters.

See VOTE, Page A8

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

MALDENWOOD - The Office of the County Clerk will be at Town Hall at 8:30 a.m. For further information, call (973) 621-4915.

THURSDAY, MAY 18

MONTCLAIR - The Office of the County Clerk will be at the municipal building at 8:30 a.m. For further information, call (973) 621-4915.

CRANFORD - County College and Senior Citizens Celebrate 20 Years of L.I.F.E. At Gala Luncheon beginning at noon at the Yankee Buffet.

BERKELEY HEIGHTS - Runnels Hospital volunteer guild sponsors super spring sale. Spring Sale starts from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. For further information call 908-771-5947.

BERKELEY HEIGHTS - Monthly caregiver/alzheimer support group to meet at 1-2 p.m. in the Family Conference Room. For further information call 973-538-0454 ext. 254.

MORRISTOWN - After School Art activities have Spring Themes & Open Art Workshops. Workshops start at 4-7 p.m. in the Family Conference Room. For further information call 973-538-0454 ext. 254.

FRIDAY, MAY 19

NEWARK - The Garden State Ballet School holds its summer scholarship tryouts. For further information, call (973) 623-1033.

SOMERSET - Somerset County Coalition on Affordable Housing hosts a first time home buyer's Seminar. For more information, call (908) 704-8901, or (732) 560-1700. Ext. 224.

GLEN RIDGE - The Office of the County Clerk will be at the public library at 8:30 a.m. For further information, call (973) 621-4915.

SATURDAY, MAY 20

SKILLMAN - The Crawford House presents its 7th Annual Bike Race, at 7:30 a.m. For further information call (908) 874-5153.

SUNDAY, MAY 21

MILLBURN - The Office of the County Clerk will be at the Police Department at 1 p.m. For further information, call (973) 621-4915.

EAST ORANGE - An Inaugural Golf

Classic to benefit the East Orange Public Library, sponsored by the Board of Trustees of the Library. For further information call 973-269-5907.

ELIZABETH - The Elizabeth Branch NAACP presents a Candidates Forum at 7:00 p.m. For further information call 908-855-1009.

TUESDAY, MAY 23

BELLEVILLE - The Office of the County Clerk will be at the public library at 8:30 p.m. For further information, call (973) 621-4915.

MORRISTOWN - The Morris Museum hosts trip to Wave Hill, departing at 8 a.m. and returning at 6 p.m. For further information call 973-538-0454 ext. 250.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

NEWARK - The New Jersey Institute for School Innovation hosts a lecture on early childhood education. For further information, call (973) 621-6631.

THURSDAY, MAY 25

JERSEY CITY - The Friends of Music and Art of Hudson County is accepting applications for their music competition. For further information, call (201) 963-1216.

FRIDAY, MAY 26

MADISON - Shakespeare Festival attracts young artists from Alaska to Australia to Asbury Park. For further information contact Kristen Daily at 973-408-3201.

SATURDAY, MAY 27

JERSEY CITY - The Women's Center of New Jersey City University features a discussion on women's self-esteem, at 4:30 p.m. For further information, call (201) 200-3189.

SUNDAY, MAY 28

ALLENSTOWN - Handicapped High Riders Club at Riding High Farm is hosting a Family & Friends Day, starting from 12-4 p.m. For further information call 908-259-3884.

MONDAY, MAY 29

MALDENWOOD - Essex County College sponsors scholarship tournament at the County Club, will begin at 1 p.m. For further information call Kuruc at 973-677-3028.

Various NAACP officials attend Northeast Regional Leadership Conference



WOODBIDGE — NAACP President Kwesi Mfume, Tracey Cosby-Smale, and Newark Chapter NAACP President Daniel Williams pose at the NAACP Northeast Regional Leadership Conference at the Woodbridge Sheraton. The region encompasses New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont, and Rhode Island. Photo by Herb Glenn



WOODBIDGE — NAACP newly elected National Board member Elaine Harrington and former NAACP Newark Chapter President Kevin Jones greet each other at the Northeast Regional Leadership Conference at the Woodbridge Sheraton. Photo by Herb Glenn

NJ City University observe Health and Wellness Week



Dr. Judy Kurlansky ("Dr. Judy") (left), a clinical psychologist, certified sex therapist, and popular radio advice show host, was the keynote speaker at New Jersey City University's seventh annual "Health and Wellness Week." (from the left): Michele Meservie of Bayonne, and NJCU graduate student in health sciences; Raynelle White of Jersey City, an NJCU freshman majoring in psychology; and Dr. Alissa Kovalevich of NJCU's Counseling and Psychological Services Center, a co-coordinator of "Health and Wellness Week." Funded in part by a lecture, demonstrations, discussions, and special programs, and a "Spring Health Fair."

Union County Freeholders honor Women of Excellence



GARWOOD — Union County Freeholder (center) Linda Stander congratulated 12 women chosen from hundreds of nominees during the Union County Commission on the Status of Women's Eighth Annual Women of Excellence Dinner held at the Westwood Restaurant in Garwood recently. The women honored demonstrated superior qualities in many ways including uncommon courage, leadership, artistic skills and volunteerism. Pictured on the left, Joan Francis Harris honored for Community Service. Pictured on the right, Freeholder Vice Chairman Alexander Mirabella.

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Black Quotes



El Hajj Malik El Shabazz
(Malcolm X)
1925-1965

"Our people have made the mistake of confusing the methods with the objectives. As long as we agree on objectives, we should never fall out with each other just because we believe in different methods or tactics or strategy... We have to keep in mind at all times that we are not fighting for integration, nor are we fighting for separation... We are fighting for recognition as free humans in this society."



SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

Shirley Chisholm was the first African-American woman elected to the House of Representatives. Born in Brooklyn, New York, Chisholm graduated from Brooklyn College and Columbia University. In 1972, Chisholm was the first black woman to seek the nomination as the Democrats' presidential candidate.

ELIZABETH DUNCAN KOONTZ



Elizabeth Duncan Koontz was the first black president of the National Education Association. Koontz was a classroom teacher in North Carolina until she became president of the department of classroom teachers in the National Education Association in 1965. From 1969 to 1972 she was the director of the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor.

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NATIONAL BRIEFS

SHARPTON CALLS FOR MARCH ON DEATH PENALTY, POLICE BRUTALITY

Special to the NNPA
NEW YORK (NNPA)—Announced during his weekly radio talk show on New York's WLIB-AM, Rev. Al Sharpton and former attorney Alton Maddox vowed to organize and lead a national march to Congress in early June to protest police brutality and violence and to demand a national moratorium on the death penalty.

The move comes in the wake of activism over Death Row inmates Gary Graham, who is set to be executed in Texas June 22, and Pennsylvania journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal, whose supporters packed Madison Square Garden May 7 to call for a new trial.

In both cases, there is evidence of the condemned men, Graham's case is at a particular zenith because the execution date is set and only Texas Gov. George W. Bush—not a presidential candidate—can stay the appointment.

NAACP: OPERATION LAST CHANCE FOR CENSUS 2000

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—The NAACP has turned to Black religious leaders and pastors in the final push to be counted in the U.S. Census.

The program, called "Operation Last Chance," asks that all people cooperate with the approximately 500,000 census takers who began going door-to-door last month.

Only 65 percent of American households have returned their census form, according to census officials. Rough counts correspond closely to the 1990 Census, which drastically undercounted people of color, rural and urban dwellers and children.

July 7 is the last day to respond to the census.

Thousands Challenge Death Penalty

Majority of crowd supports Mumia Abu-Jamal

By Herb Boyd
 Special to the NNPA

NEW YORK — If a new trial for death row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal depended on popular appeal, there is a good chance he would be on his way to court right now.

A strong indication of his support occurred Sunday afternoon at a May 7 rally on his behalf at the Madison Square Garden Theater. More than 6,000 people crammed the theater and hundreds more milled outside, passing out leaflets and collaring the curious about the plight of the renowned journalist who has been in Pennsylvania prisons since 1982.

The turnout for Abu-Jamal dwarfed the scheduled counter-demonstration of police officers, who slammed the Garden for hosting such an event. There were only two or three officers from Philadelphia's Fraternal Order of Police behind barricades outside the Garden, joined by a few dozen off-duty officers of the NYPD brandishing placards in support of Daniel Faulkner, the officer killed allegedly by Abu-Jamal during a 1981 encounter on a Philadelphia street corner.

After noted actor/activist Ossie Davis's words of introduction and a spirited rendition of "You Are No One's Slave" by Earth Driver, a quintet of singers and drummer, Abu-Jamal greeted the crowd in a taped message.

"We gather here today in protest and equity in celebration. We stand in protest of the death-oriented social order. We celebrate our united resistance rooted in the centrality of life, the necessity of justice and the radical determination for freedom."

For 18 years Abu-Jamal has been on death row and denied freedom. His thousands of supporters, including a coterie of international political notables and celebrities such as Harry Belafonte, Gloria Steinem, Mar-

tin Luther King III, Johnnie Cochran, Julia Wright and Ed Asner have added their names to the demand that Abu-Jamal be given a new trial.

Abu-Jamal, 46, has written commentary for newspapers and other publications while in prison. His proposed radio commentaries for National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" were dropped before they aired in 1994 after then-U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) denounced NPR from the Senate floor.

He became a world celebrity after his first book, "Live From Death Row," was published in 1995. His new book, "All Things Censored," has recently been released.

Abu-Jamal has had long legal battles with Pennsylvania prison authorities in order to exercise his First Amendment right to write for publications and appear on radio.

"If we can't free Mumia, then how can any of us be free?" asked former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, one of the Garden's more than 40 speakers. This was a theme that repeated throughout the three-hour long program.

"An injury to one is an injury to all, and that's why we fight for Mumia," Leslie Feinberg, of founder of the Rainbow Flagg, asserted. He also told an audience comprised mostly of white people that even more of them were needed in the struggle to get Abu-Jamal a new trial, after a mockery of one in 1982.

Journalist/radio commentator Roseanne Mealy and journalist/attorney Lynn Washington, Jr. narrated a slide presentation called "The Rizzo Years," documenting the oppressive reign of a former Philadelphia Mayor Frank Rizzo and the city's corrupt police force.

In 1974, Washington said, the Philadelphia police force shot and wounded 148 people, double the number of assaults by the New York Police Department during the same year.

It was against this backdrop, the narrators related,

that the circumstances surrounding Abu-Jamal's incident occurred.

tain eyewitnesses and to admit key evidence, or to allow the defendant to represent himself.



Law professor and former Black Panther Party stalwart Kathleen Cleaver talked about how the FBI discriminated the Panthers and other activist in the 1960s. National Newspaper Publishers Association

Their remarks set the stage for Ramona Africa's appearance, and she excoriated the "criminal justice system," with special invectives for the Philadelphia police who dropped incendiary bombs on the residence of the back to nature group MOVE in 1985. (Abu-Jamal had become a supporter of MOVE prior to his arrest and conviction, and still believes in its principles.)

Ms. Africa was the lone surviving adult of the conflagration that took 11 members of her family and organization.

"Their hands are drenched with blood," Ms. Africa said of the city officials and the police, "not Mumia's, and we are not going to let them kill another innocent man."

Attorney Michael Tariff Warren and activist Clark Kissingner took time to explain a scenario of legal injustices against Abu-Jamal and how he was denied a fair trial, the failure to call cer-

were among some of the points they made.

Former Black Panther Party stalwart and now law professor Kathleen Cleaver discussed the disinformation campaign of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's counter-intelligence program and how it discriminated the Panthers and other radical activists during the late 1960s, all the while noting how Abu-Jamal was so significant as a journalist and organizer despite his young age. Abu-Jamal, who was then a teenager also known by his birth name of Wes Cook, was Minister of Information for the Philadelphia BPP.

There were riveting words of encouragement from Lawrence Holmes, attorneys Leonard Weinglass and Dan Williams, Zack de la Rocha, Dick Gregory, Safiya Bukhari, Pam Africa and others who lent their names and committed themselves to halting the execution of who many call a "freedom fighter."

Poet Sonia Sanchez read "Mother Loss," a compelling essay by Abu-Jamal about his

mother, who died while he was incarcerated, and former Mayor David Dinkins spoke at length about the "shameful episodes of police misconduct," with particular indictment of the NYPD.

One of the event's most moving moments was the long line of youths who took the stage and offered poignant remarks about why they were Abu-Jamal supporters.

Michael Africa got the loudest response when he recalled how he was born in prison because his mother was a MOVE member. And there was thunderous applause after he excoriated Philadelphia's Fraternal Order of Police.

"They are scared to demonstrate at our demonstration," he charged, "scared that Mumia will be free to reveal their wicked, twisted, vile and treacherous ways."

Meanwhile, outside the Garden, only a handful of counter-demonstrators remained after the contingent of NYPD officers left. There were only about five or six of us who came from Philadelphia," said Theresa Mattis, a student at Temple University.

"I am here because of the moral aspect of what happened," she said. "Maybe he shouldn't get the death penalty, but he has to pay for what he did."

Ms. Mattis said she knew some of the Temple University students who were inside the Garden supporting Abu-Jamal, but she disagreed with them.

"Who's going to fight for Mumia? You and me," sang the all-woman trio Rhythms of Aqua, and their words were representative of all the dignitaries and activists.

Monica Moorehead, Larry Holmes, attorneys Leonard Weinglass and Dan Williams, Zack de la Rocha, Dick Gregory, Safiya Bukhari, Pam Africa and others who lent their names and committed themselves to halting the execution of who many call a "freedom fighter."

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Preparing for African Liberation Day 2000

EMERGENCY

Stop in the name of love

Did you catch VH-1 Divas Live 2000? It was a tribute to the No. 1 Diva Diana Ross. Well first of all the overly exaggerated Afro wig she wore was way over the top. But then again that's Diana for you, she's always had a thing for a lotta lotta hair. So, I eventually accepted it and on with the show. The Supremes, now that's another story. Or shall I say those facsimile Supremes—they really had to go. It was no way, even as hard as I tried could I accept them. It just was not the same. And I know things change as years pass by, but for some reason the Supremes—Diana, Mary and (Flo) Cindy should still be. And this brings me to this. It is no secret that Diana and Mary are really feuding over this so-called Supremes Reunion Tour. And up until this point, I really didn't have an opinion about the matter. But, I do now. I am down with Mary. At first, I thought it was a money thing and I felt Mary was being foolish by not doing the gig, even if she was only getting \$3 million. I recently read an article where Mary counted what Diana said on the Barbara Walters Special and I'm feeling like Mary has a right to be a little hot under the collar. After all, Mary Wilson was one of the founding members of this dynamic group. She is not just some ordinary Joe, when it comes to the Supremes. She carried on after Diana was long gone. So her gripe is that she was never included in the plans. It was like she never really existed. The deal was made and she was to accept it or, oh well, no tour for you. Although Diana was the star of the group, come on after 30 years these two can't get it together for the sake of legions of fans who would love to see the original Supremes. Life is too short—Stop In The Name of Love!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

New York City Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani is totally out of control and has allowed the New York Police Department to prey on communities of color with it buy and bust drug operation.

Communities of color are racially profiled because they buy and bust drug operations are only deployed in the aforementioned communities. I have yet to hear of an undercover cop dress in a three piece suit engaging in a buy and bust operation on Wall Street.

When a person (like Patrick Dorismond) of color is killed by a police officer because he says no to drugs and then is demonized by Mayor Giuliani is clearly an indication of out of control behavior. To justify their out of control behavior,

the mayor violated the Family Court Act by releasing Mr. Dorismond's sealed juvenile record to the press. The mayor has violated Mr. Dorismond human rights, civil rights, family court act rights as well as his right to be at peace in death.

I strongly demand for Federal Government intervention to put in place a Federal Monitor to oversee the NYPD. This is a most urgent matter because it is in our national interest for us all to act to put an end to police gross misconduct.

It is shameful that we live in a time when an unarmed black male can be killed by a police officer because he has a wallet or says no to drug. Your cooperation in dealing with this matter in a just and fair manner is utmost appreciated. Thank you.

William E. Frazier

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Opinion Page

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By Dr. Conrad W. Worrill

During the month of May, African people around the world celebrate African Liberation Day / A.L.D. In Chicago, the National Black United Front / NBUF, the National Black Leadership Initiative / NBLI, in conjunction with the Conscious Music Coalition, are sponsoring a weekend of African Liberation Day events, activities, and African market on May 19th and 20th.

It is important that we keep the African Liberation Day / A.L.D. tradition alive. However, when African Liberation Day emerged in 1963, the continent of Africa was experiencing the fight for independence from colonial rule, white supremacy, and imperialism. Here in the United States we celebrated the first A.L.D. celebration in May of 1995.

The conditions in Africa have changed dramatically as we observe the efforts of the former slave trading nations: Britain, France, Portugal, and the United States of America moving to attenuate the re-colonization of Africa.

Therefore one of the major themes of African Liberation Day this year is African Liberation and Reparations. Dr. Jeffries will speak on this theme.

In preparation for A.L.D. it is important that we remind ourselves of the Pan African duty and responsibility to support the struggles of African people everywhere. Of course, the key struggle that we have supported is the struggle of the African majority population to win their land and control their own destiny.

Although it is historic that Nelson Mandela has become the President of South Africa, we must not allow this to be the total liberation of South Africa.

by Mike Green

The information age is here. Computers bring an exciting new frontier to education, commerce and educational opportunity. It also brings a new angle on victimization.

It's called the "digital divide." It assumes that millions of poor and black Americans are left behind while others enjoy the opportunities brought by the Internet.

Never missing an opportunity to expand the role and subsequent control of the federal government, presidential candidates and activists disguise their thirst for more power as "solutions" in order to confiscate more money from taxpayers, launch new government programs, create massive bureaucracies and redistribute revenue into budgets that mostly pay salaries. We are told the government will close the digital divide by bringing sure the poor and minorities can access the Internet. The truth is that we are being hoodwinked again, with the government hoping we'll buy its latest excuse to raid our pockets.

There really is no digital divide. This new victimization drive was concocted to continue coddling the poor and minorities by saying they have been slighted. The deprived of equal opportunity. It is nothing more than a seam to open up another door for federal intrusion and expansion. The goal is to foster guilt, and it milks us all to pay for it.

In this day and age, however, black Americans are living and achieving their dreams in greater numbers than at any

There is no question that the Pan African spirit is alive and well throughout the world. When we use the term Pan Africanism, we are talking about the "Belief that people of African decent throughout the world have the same racial, cultural, and the same social and economic conditions as a result of our African origin."

"There is no question that the Pan African spirit is alive and well throughout the world."

Therefore, in the tradition of this worldwide Pan African spirit, it given to us by our African brothers, we have a moral obligation to intensify our support for our brothers and sisters in South Africa who now face the awesome challenge of national reconstruction.

It makes no sense for other people to take a struggle that belongs to African people. We must accept their support and with them, but the struggle in South Africa is not ours. We must accept their support and with them, but the struggle in South Africa is not ours.

In developing our on-going support for our brothers and sisters in South Africa, we must understand the nature of the domestic and foreign policies of the United States. The domestic policies of the United States have always been racist, even though historical from time to time, there have been reforms.

The United States foreign policies have always been racist from the standpoint of protecting

United States interests and white supremacy. The call for a "New World Order" is a vivid example.

South Africa and its historically blatant racism depended on the support of the United States and its western allies to continue its control of that region of the world. This is why we see the western powers backing the shared power arrangement in South Africa to protect the white supremacy interest in that region of the world. We must not be duped by this scheme.

The historical South African racism, propped up by United States racism, has represented the foundation of white supremacy in the development of their foreign and domestic policies that aid in the continued oppression of African people.

"An understanding of history tells a people where they still must go and what they still must be."

—Dr. John Henrik Clarke

In this context, when we use the term Pan Africanism and white supremacy, we are speaking of the "direct and overall physical and psychological subordination and subjugation of one ethnic group over another for the purpose of maximum political, cultural and economic exploitation."

Professor Clarke further states "History tells a people where they are and what they are. It tells a people the understanding of history tells a people where they still must go and what they still must be."

We must keep the Pan African spirit alive! Get prepared for a great African Liberation Day weekend of activities May 19th and 20th!

homeland.

The stream of the African Liberation Movement we receive our inspiration from the ways fought against colonial and white supremacist political and economic configuration in Africa. The Black Liberation Movement Conference meeting in London in 1900, the worldwide African Liberation Movement has gone on record in opposition to the rules and apartheid in South Africa. Our movement should take great pride in the contributions we have made to the South African Struggle and other liberation movements on the continent of Africa.

Through the Garvey movement, the subsequent Pan African conferences, the Black Power Movement of the 1960's, the Black Liberation Movement, through the spirit of Pan Africanism, has played a leading role in exposing and clarifying the world nature of the colonial presence in all of Africa and we must continue this role.

The American scholar Dr. John Henrik Clarke has repeatedly reminded us "History is a clock that people use to hand their political and cultural time of day. It is also a compass that people use to find themselves on the map of human geography."

Professor Clarke further states "History tells a people where they are and what they are. It tells a people the understanding of history tells a people where they still must go and what they still must be." The Pan African spirit alive! Get prepared for a great African Liberation Day weekend of activities May 19th and 20th!

The "Digital Divide" is a Voluntary Gap

other time in history. As a young child, I grew up in the stereotypical black family. Five small children were raised by a single female in a poor community in South Houston, Texas. We were poor by anyone else's standards but not ours. We had a television, a radio, small kitchen appliances and lots of books. My mother was an avid reader and maintain all of her children were able to read, write and speak in an articulate and eloquent manner.

"Even children with access to books, libraries and classrooms can get a good education despite the fact that not all public schools are competent."

Today, many black children live in the same manner in which I was raised. Are they poor? No. They are not poor, but not computers. They have books, but not computers. They are poor in the way they are raised, but not computers. They have books, but not computers. They are poor in the way they are raised, but not computers. They have books, but not computers. They are poor in the way they are raised, but not computers.

There is a certain advantage

to growing up with a computer at home, but it is by no means a right ensured by the government. And without proper supervision and guidance, a computer can be nothing more than another method to influence children and can be used by strangers that prey on the innocent. The real answer to the so-called digital divide is simple moral and economic responsibility.

There is a definite disadvantage to being born into poor, illiterate, dysfunctional, corrupt and/or morally bankrupt families. Children born into negative environments that contain roadblocks to educational and economic success must overcome obstacles both tangible and intangible that no government can erase through increased taxation and expanded bureaucracy.

When parents create a good environment for their children, it's harder for the government to claim to find an opening in the family tent to place its nose. Churches, non-profit organizations and business profits do better addressing the needs of those in desperate situations without government assistance. A certain portion of our hard-earned income.

Americans have always supported religious and secular non-profit organizations through abundant, voluntary donations.

Businesses are increasing their charitable involvement, offering personal computers to employees and giving away older models that are fine for the

Even children with access to

books, libraries and classrooms can get a good education despite the fact that not all public schools are competent. But if we allow the government to convince us our limitations are caused by widespread discrimination, hatred, bigotry and an all-out assault on black progress, then we will have opened the door to socialists who believe in government control. The supreme authority from which all life's solutions emanate.

That's simply not the case. The race shun the language of this country, ignore the educational opportunities available to even the poorest child, and the least-funded public school and abandon personal moral and ethical responsibilities, problems will be government result. The solution must begin with changing the behavior that caused the problem. It does not exist in federal government. Government crumbs from the table of American prosperity help only to expand the scope and control of the government and divide people through legislated robbery and redistribution.

The "digital divide" is just another scheme being used to divide America and allow liberal socialists into our political system. There should be no incremental government expansion that may someday be impossible to reverse.

To request that a copy of this or any other New Visions Commentary be sent to you by e-mail, please send your request to Project2@nationalcenter.org.

Black Mayan Day of Absence

math of the acquittal of the four New York City police officers who shot Amadou Diallo to death. The 41 days of protest is symbolic of the forty-one shots fired at Amadou Diallo while he stood unarmed in the vestibule of the apartment building in which he lived. May 19 is the forty-first day. It is also the birthday of Malcolm X (El Hajj Malik El Shabazz), one of the foremost leaders of the modern black liberation movement.

Regarding to Amadou Diallo, POP called upon Attorney General Janet Reno and the U.S. Justice Department to bring civil rights charges against and prosecute the officers who shot and murdered Amadou Diallo.

Earl Faison, a 27-year-old African-American man, wrongfully arrested as a suspect in the murder of orange police officer Joyce Anne Carnegie, died last April after being in the custody of the Orange police for 41 minutes.

It has been reported that an Orange policeman testified that officers robbed, beat, and pepper sprayed Mr. Faison directly in the face while he lay handcuffed on the floor moments before he

"we call for the establishment of independent police review boards with subpoena powers for state and local police"

died.

More than a year later the person accused of Officer Carnegie's death, Condell Woodson, has been apprehended, tried, convicted, put in prison, and is serving a life sentence without parole. But no one has yet been charged with the death of Earl Faison. What we see here are two

systems of justice. One that works swiftly for some and another that hardly works for the rest of us. There should be one system of justice that works the same for everybody! We demand that state and federal law enforcement officials conduct an independent case report to the community on the progress of the investigation into the death of Earl Faison.

On May 19 we will once again put forward our call for the top to bottom reform of the police. We demand: the immediate suspension of officers who are bodily harm to Earl Faison. We demand a special prosecutor for the investigation of the case, residency requirements, racial bias testing, sensitivity training, and the promotion of more minority officers to supervisory positions. But most importantly we call for the establishment of independent police review boards with subpoena powers for state and local police.

Business Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

MT. LAUREL - The CEO Peer Track Presents "Changing Your Business Model/Doing Business on the Web" For further information, call (856) 787-9700.

NEWARK - Newark International Airport hosts its 8th annual Aviation Career and Education Expo at 8:30 a.m. For more information, call (973) 961-6205.

THURSDAY, MAY 18

NEWARK - Horizon Mercy will present its 52nd Annual New Jersey Business Conference, starting at 8 a.m. For further information, call (973) 499-6300.

EAST BRUNSWICK - The 52nd Annual NJ-Business Conference 2000/2001 will be held at 8:00 a.m. For further information call (973) 873-5790.

KENILWORTH - Former White House press secretary Mike McCurry will speak at Schenck-Pough at 6 p.m. For more information, call (212) 687-0610.

NEW YORK - Professional Women in Construction holds its women achievement luncheon at 11:30 a.m. For more information, call (212) 687-0610.

SATURDAY, MAY 20

NEWARK - The Professional Legal Training Center for Secretaries, Inc. hosts an Introduction to Corel workshop at 9 a.m. For further information, call (973) 624-2414.

MONDAY, MAY 22

NEWARK - The Professional Legal Training Center for Secretaries, Inc. hosts a workshop at 9 a.m. For further information, call (973) 624-2414.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31

NEW YORK - The NYNJ Minority Purchasing Council, Inc. will host Marketing & Business Expo 2000. For further information, call (212) 502-5663.

Send your business announcement to
City News Business Calendar
111 Mulberry Street - Suite 1F
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Anthony Kendall new managing partner for Mitchell & Titus, LLP

NEW YORK—Mitchell & Titus, LLP, the nation's largest minority-controlled, certified public accounting and management consulting firm, recently announced Anthony Kendall as the new Managing Partner of its New York office. Willard N. Archie, who has for the past two years served in a dual role as CEO and Managing Partner of the New York office, will remain CEO of the firm and will continue to focus on the strategic and operational issues of the firm.

Kendall joined Mitchell & Titus five years ago and has been a partner since 1996. Since the fall of 1999, he has served as the Administrative Partner for the New York office. Kendall has a diversified mix of companies in his client portfolio he has concentrated primarily on servicing the firm's Fortune 500 companies and entrepreneurial businesses.

Prior to joining Mitchell & Titus, Kendall spent approximately seven years with Arthur Andersen, LLP. He holds a MBA in Finance & Taxation and a BS in Accounting from Binghamton University. Kendall is committed to giving back to the community. Indicative of that commitment,

he remains active and supportive of professional and civic organizations. He is on the Board of Directors of the New York State Society of CPAs' Career Opportunity in the Accounting Profession program, Binghamton University, Project Renewal, Inc. and the Queens Cadet Corps, Inc.



Anthony Kendall File photo

Barreiro heads commercial business development

PRINCETON — Summit Bank (NYSE: SUB) has announced that Marylou Barreiro, senior vice president, will head the Business Development group of Summit Commercial Services, which serves commercial industrial customers in New Jersey, Baltimore, MD, greater Philadelphia, Connecticut, Long Island and the New York metropolitan area.

"The new structure will enable us to be more responsive to the marketplace," stated Ms. Barreiro.

"Our Business Development group will deliver financial solutions, in addition to Summit Bank's breadth of products."

Barreiro had been the senior vice president of Summit's Growth Markets Group, which focuses on serving the broad-

based financial needs of women and minorities. Prior to that, she was vice president and sales director for the Business Banking Division. Since 1988, she held various middle market lending and retail management positions.

She has a bachelor's degree in finance from Rutgers University and has attended the Graduate School of Retail Bank Management at the University of Virginia.

Barreiro serves on the boards of the Urban League of Bergen County, the Newark Inbound Association, Bergen County Hispanic American Chamber of Commerce, and the Girl Scouts Council of Greater Essex and Hudson Counties. She is a member and past president of the Hispanic Bankers Association.



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Administration proposes plan for low-cost bank accounts

By MARCY GORDON
AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Clinton administration is proposing a \$30 million plan to help millions of poor people open low-cost bank accounts, Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers said recently.

About 10 percent of U.S. households, or 10 million families, do not have bank accounts. They are predominantly poor and from racial or ethnic minorities and often are elderly or disabled.

Among reasons they give for failure to have accounts are rising bank and ATM fees, the closing of bank branches in poor city neighborhoods and rural towns and general distrust of banks.

Administrators have worried for some time about the people without accounts, who often fall prey to storefront check-cashing services that charge excessive fees.

Speaking to the Consumer Bankers Association, an industry group, Summers said the so-called "First Accounts" plan will be proposed to Congress this week. It would provide subsidies such as tax incentives to banks, thrifts and credit unions that offer low-cost, "no-frills" checking accounts for low-income people.

"Working together, we should ensure that all low-income Americans have access to the types of financial products that the rest of us take for granted," Summers said. "All individuals should be

able to cash their checks without paying high fees."

Banks also would get subsidies for expanding the numbers of ATM machines in poorer neighborhoods, a service that banks have complained is too expensive, and Internet banking for lower-income people.

The proposal includes a public education campaign for financial literacy in poorer communities.

During congressional debate last year on major banking legislation, some liberal Democrats, led by Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., pushed for an amendment to require banks to offer low-cost accounts for low-income people.

The Clinton proposal, by contrast, wouldn't require banks to offer the accounts but would give them financial incentives to do so. It may have stronger prospects for passage.

The proposal is "something we'll take a look at," said David Runkel, a spokesman for Rep. Jim Leach, R-Iowa, chairman of the House Banking Committee.

Frank Torres, legislative counsel for Consumers Union, said his group supports the Clinton proposal but added: "It's a shame that we actually have to pay the banks to do this."

Joe Belew, president of the Consumer Bankers Association, said many banks have been offering basic checking accounts for years, but it is difficult to get low-income people to use them.

Free workshops on business offered to artists

EDISON - Making the transition from artist to business professional can be challenging.

Middlesex County College, with support from the New Jersey Council on the Arts, has designed a program for the entrepreneurial artist-painters, sculptors, musicians, actors, writers and craftspeople who want the tools to develop and sustain their business.

The grant underwrites a series of three free workshops designed to assist the artist in creating and maintaining a professional and profitable business while continuing to develop as an artist.

MCC's Institute for Management and Technical Development, which provides customized training to regional business and entrepreneurs, is administering this project. For several years,

The Institute has conducted the Self Employment Assistance

The grant underwrites a series of three free workshops designed to assist the artist in creating and maintaining a professional and profitable business while continuing to develop as an artist.

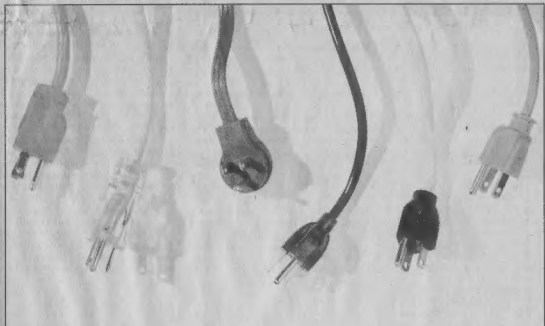
(SEA) Program, a 60-hour training program targeted to business start-ups.

The "Business for the Arts" Series focuses on three topics: Marketing Your Art, (Part I, Saturday, May 13, and Part II, Saturday, May 20 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) addresses pricing,

promotion, publicity and networking. Participants will learn how to set marketing goals and target markets.

Business Planning, scheduled for Saturday, June 3, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., focuses on the fundamentals, including bookkeeping, management, competition and funding sources. Each participant will draft a business plan. The concluding workshop, Legal and Financial Issues for Artists/Series Wrap-up, will be held on Saturday, June 17, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Experts will discuss business liability, contracts and cash flow. Participants will review their business and marketing plans.

Workshops are open to all New Jersey artists at no charge. Enrollment is limited. For further information on the workshops, contact 732.906.4681.



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Visit the Gateway Expo on Saturday, May 20, 2000 to learn how you can improve your business and lower your costs. Featured at the expo will be representatives from New Jersey Energy Choice who will share information about the new competitive energy market that could lower your energy costs. In addition a PSE&G representative will present a seminar on how to do business in the new energy market place.

At registration ask for the time and location of the Energy Choice seminar and plug into new information that will help to improve your business.



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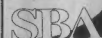
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Religion Calendar

SATURDAY, MAY 20

WESTFIELD — The Choral Art Society of New Jersey, Inc. will be performing "The Seasons" at 8 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church. For further information, call (732) 382-0394.

SUNDAY, MAY 21

PLAINFIELD — Bethel Baptist Church will celebrate their Annual Women's Day at 3:00 p.m. For more information call 908-757-5390.

SATURDAY, MAY 27

NEWARK — The Women's Support Ministry Seminar will be held at Mt. Zion's Baptist Church at 9 a.m. For further information, call (973) 242-4173.

FRIDAY, JUNE 23

NEW YORK — The Riverside Church "Pop Writers & Performance Workshop" will be held at 7 p.m. For additional information, call (212) 870-6739.

Prayer Corner



You are more than a conqueror

Christians live in two realities: the earthly realm of physical and emotional conflicts, and the heavenly places of victory and overcoming faith. Each time we experience the Lord's deliverance, we enforce His victory over sin. Though the battle rages, we can sing our praises to God because He is fighting for us, and in the end we will triumph.

Heart Issue

Peace is not the absence of trouble, but the presence of God in the midst of it. Set your heart on Him today and worship Him, knowing that trials must ultimately bow to His purposes in the lives of His children.

Prayer Focus

Father, thank You for the truth and encouragement of Your holy Word. Strengthen those who feel victimized by life's circumstances. Endue them with supernatural power by Your Spirit. Grant abundant grace and peace. Make haste, Lord to bring deliverance and hope. Amen.

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Religion

Discover your genuine and authentic self

By Junious Ricardo Stanton

"There is something in every one of you that waits and listens for the sound of the genuine in yourself. It is the only true guide you will ever have. And if you cannot hear it, you will still of your life spend your days on the ends of strings that somebody else pulls." — Howard Thurman

In a culture built on delusion and violence, one that maintains itself by programming people not to think independently, to acquiesce to mindless conformity rarely does one encounter a truly genuine person; the man or woman who stands up for what they deeply believe to be right, who lives their life in integrity to a higher consciousness. This is why so many of us are dis-eased, dissatisfied and frustrated with our lives; why if and when we attain what this society defines as success, we often still feel empty and unfulfilled. Each one of us came into this world, into this life, with a personal destiny something or things we were born to do. Most of us never fully discover or manifest our innate potential. We get sidetracked, bamboozled and tricked into being what someone else says we

should aspire to be. In this process, we never fully grasp who we really are or what we are fully capable of doing, being or accomplishing. We are so preoccupied living up or down to someone else's standards we never get around to investing ourselves into our unique mission or calling. Why? Because we elect to be obedient to parents and authority figures who teach us to be outer directed conformists and synchophons who blindly follow the crowd, turning a deaf ear to the still small voice within.

Intuition is the voice of OMNITIVITY designed to guide, nudge and prompt us to do, be and demonstrate our innate genius, aptitudes and divinity. We have accepted a limited definition of ourselves and the universe imposed upon us by both the oppressor's culture and the limited thinking/expectations of our own community. The late Howard Thurman understood the importance of living in integrity to your higher calling/self. As he said, it is the only true guide you will ever have and failure to hear and heed it will result in your spending your life dangling from strings someone else pulls.

Think about a time you didn't

listen to your intuition. What happened? Did things turn out well or did you at some later point say to yourself or someone else "something told me not to get involved with that project," or "I had a hunch he or she wasn't telling the whole truth and I should behold their verity." If you think long and hard enough you'll remember saying many times, "I should have listened to my inner self/intuition," or "why didn't I trust my instincts on this one?" We have to learn to trust our inner selves. It is part of us, given to us to use in every situation. In fact, it is constantly working. It is part of our brain's right hemisphere functioning. The human brain is designed to function as an ordered whole simultaneously interpreting, blending and mediating input and stimuli from both left and right hemispheres. European culture pool-poos the right hemisphere and its specialties: intuition, spatial relationships, artistic creativity, spiritual awareness and integrative holism. Unfortunately this bias affects us. Non-Westerners tend to be more whole brained. Our African ancestors understood the importance of dreams, trance and spirits as guides, reposito-

ries of information, wisdom and knowledge. For us to turn away from this vital source of sagacity is counter-productive and self-negating/defeating. Using our whole brain is empowering, being able to tap an inner source of guidance, direction and motivation is encouraging. Failure to grasp this truth results in personal impotence, not actualizing our innate potential, personal power and permits others to rule over us.

We all say we want more power and control over our lives. The secret is to turn inward and listen for what Dr. Thurman called the genuine in yourself, what Yeshua Ben Joseph called the Kingdom of God within you. Listening to this voice, the genuine within you is the key to personal empowerment, self-actualization and individuation. In short, listening and following the genuine in yourself will allow you to live in truth and integrity to your higher calling.

Of course in a culture built on lies, mindless conformity and alienation of self living in integrity to yourself makes you an oddball—a non-conformist who will be viewed with suspicion and a threat to the status quo. That's the norm for Black folks.

The Family Life Conference comes to Gateway Hilton

Addressing matters to strengthen the family

ROSELLE — Family matters — an urgent topic facing all Americans in the new millennium. And many faith-based organizations and churches are rising to the occasion in getting this message across in a valiant effort to bring forth change. The ties that bind — family — is unraveling at the seams, and if the basic fiber of this nation is going to be strengthened then cultivating and adhering to basic moral values are issues that need to be addressed.

"The Family Life Conference" will tackle the breakdown of "the family" on May 18-21 at the Hilton Gateway Hotel in Newark. The Conference, which is being led by Rev. Gregory T. McLendon of The Wings of Faith Apostolic Church in Roselle, New Jersey, will bring clergy from across the nation to administer to participants on pressing family issues.

"We feel the family is under major attack," said Rev. McLendon, who was the keynote speaker at the National Day of Prayer held May 4, at Roselle's City Hall. "The latchkey system, border babies, runaways, teenage pregnancy are universal prob-

lems we're facing."

In its third year, the Conference has grown rapidly, which suggests people are listening. This year's event kicks off at 6 p.m. on Thursday with a "Youth Explosion" and Worship and Praise. A stellar line-up of gospel entertainment and educational breakout sessions have been assembled that will prove to be beneficial to all in attendance.

The featured gospel messengers of music will include Rev. Timothy Wright, James Hall and Worship & Praise, Anita Cox, and David Bratton and Spirit of Praise, along with Joshua Nelson. The keynote speakers include Bishop Wilbur Jones, Pastor Ronald Harris, Rev. Sam Emory and Pastor Robert Stewart.

On Friday, breakout sessions featuring such topics as "Remaining in the Station where God Called You," "When Loving You is Wrong, And I Want To Be Right," "How Not To Let Disappointment Stop You," "How Do I Protect Myself From Delilah," "The Origin of Oneness" and "Financial Crisis" are some of the cleverly entitled workshops. These sessions start at 9 a.m.



Rev. Gregory and Juanita McLendon

and run until 4:45 p.m. The evening ends on a gospel note with an energetic "Youth Explosion."

"They're going to be singing until two in the morning," said Rev. McLendon.

On Saturday there will be additional workshops starting at 11:25 until 4:45 p.m. The topics to be explored will be: "The Blessing in Serving Your Pastor," "Breaking Old Habits," and "Losing Bad Company," to name a few.

C.A. Scott, publisher dies at 92

ATLANTA (AP) — C.A. Scott, who as editor and publisher of the Atlanta Daily World fought violence against black people, for the integration of schools and businesses and for voting rights, died May 7 at the age of 92.

Cornelius Adolphus Scott took over the Daily World in 1934 after the death of his brother, W.A. Scott II, and ran it until his retirement in 1997.

"to give constructive and inspiring news to our Negro peoples, to create jobs, and to prove that our race could produce an important business."

—C.A. Scott

He died of pneumonia at Grady Memorial Hospital. The funeral was 11 a.m. May 12 at Warren Memorial United Methodist Church.

Founded in 1928 as a monthly, the World was envisioned as an anchor to a chain of newspapers across the country and Africa. Its purpose, Scott wrote in a 50th anniversary edition, was "to give constructive and inspiring news to our Negro peoples, to create jobs, and to prove that our race could produce an important business."

The paper became a weekly in 1928 and a tri-weekly in 1931. The Birmingham World was born in 1930 and the Memphis World in 1931. About 50 papers, now part of the Scott Newspaper Syndicate, were started between 1928 and 1934, as far west as Phoenix and as far north as Des Moines, Iowa. In March 1932, the Atlanta World became a daily.

In 1934, W.A. Scott was killed as he opened his garage. A brother of a former wife was tried and acquitted.

All the papers outside Atlanta, except the Birmingham World, closed by 1969.

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Whitman promises full disclosure on minority arrest records



Gov. Christine Whitman
By John P. McAlpin

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — After being pressed by reporters, the Whitman administration Thursday released statistics detailing the numbers of minorities arrested or stopped by State Police troopers on the New Jersey Turnpike.

Hours earlier, Gov. Christine Whitman had promised that the information would be released on a regular basis. This is the first time that statistics on motorist stops have been released in such detail, including the race of the drivers.

The figures show that in 1999, while 58 percent of all motorists stopped on the Turnpike were white, blacks and

minorities accounted for 85 percent of those arrested.

In the first three months of this year, State Police troopers stopped 20,456 drivers on the New Jersey Turnpike, according to the figures. White drivers accounted for 62 percent of those stopped. Blacks, Hispanics and other minorities amounted to 38 percent.

In 1999, whites represented 58 percent of the drivers stopped by troopers. Minorities were reported to be 38 percent, with the remainder categorized as "other" in the State Police report. Troopers arrested 790 people on the Turnpike in 1999 and 35 percent of them were white.

Both Whitman and Attorney General John J. Farmer Jr. warned that these numbers do not represent the impact of reforms made by the State Police since the state acknowledged the widespread allegations of racial profiling.

More data and more time for review would provide a full picture of the State Police's work with minority motorists as well as the effects of reforms, Whitman said. "I think it is too early to draw any conclusions from those numbers," Whitman told reporters outside the Statehouse.

Whitman stressed that those numbers are incomplete and that they do not show all of the efforts taken by the State Police and the

attorney general's office to eliminate racial profiling.

In an agreement with the U.S. Justice Department signed in December, the state said it would, within six months, provide the number of motor vehicle stops, each driver's race, a reason for the stop and the actions taken by the trooper.

On April 28, the state

'The numbers are going to be made public as part of a regular procedure.'

— Gov. Christine Whitman

released the first update on changes made to the State Police since the consent decree. But that report did not contain the numbers of minorities stopped by troopers or other related statistics. Officials said it would be released "within the time period set forth" by the court.

Whitman again said the state would comply with the agreement and release the information.

"The numbers are going to be made public as part of a regular procedure," Whitman said.

Farmer said the state will release another report at the end of June, the deadline set by the

consent decree.

The release came after a daily paper requested the numbers, Farmer said. A story in the paper's edition said attorneys for the newspaper spent weeks negotiating with the state for the information.

The Rev. Reginald Jackson, executive director of the New Jersey Black Ministers Council, said he too believes it is "too early to draw some conclusions, but I do think the numbers draw questions."

Jackson said he was troubled by the fact that the state had to be asked for this information.

The skeptic arises when you have to go through so much to get the information," Jackson said.

But Farmer said it was difficult to produce the numbers since the state only recently began collecting such information.

And these figures must not be considered alone, Farmer said. They should be viewed along with other "objective" tests of trooper performance, including videotaped recordings of every traffic stop, he said.

"Once the system is up and running and we have objective measures in place, I think these raw numbers will be irrelevant," Farmer said.

EEOC and Toyota reach deal on hiring practices for blacks

By Jeffery Gold

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — A unit of Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A. Inc. at Port Newark has implemented hiring practices to correct policies that the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission maintained illegally excluded blacks and women from its work force, the agency said recently.

The deal between the EEOC and Toyota Logistics Services Inc. was approved by U.S. District Judge John W. Bissell.

TLS, however, had already changed its practices so that 22 openings for drivers or accessory installers filled since January include 10 blacks and 14 women of various races, said Anna M. Stathis, the EEOC lawyer handling the case.

"We have put the first females into these positions. There have never been females in these positions before," Stathis said. "We've given a wonderful opportunity to people who have never had the opportunity before."

The racial mix was "less than one would expect given the diversity" of the region, she said.

TLS operations at Port

'The EEOC said Toyota's past practices, while "superficially neutral," made it hard for blacks and women to learn of openings.'

Newark employs about 149 hourly union workers, including the 22 hires this year, and 21 salaried positions. Toyota spokeswoman Diana DeJoseph said from the company's U.S. headquarters in Torrance, Calif.

In addition to the 10 blacks,

the 22 recent hires include eight Hispanics, one American Indian and three whites, DeJoseph said.

The workers at sprawling waterfront lots handled 149,046 vehicles that arrived in 1999 from Japan and U.S. plants before sending them to dealers in the Northeast and New England, she said.

The jobs represented by the International Longshoremen's Association, pay \$15.95 an hour after one month and provide "wonderful benefits," but require only a clean driving record and the ability to drive a stick shift and pass a criminal background check, Stathis said.

TLS admits no wrongdoing as part of the deal, which settles a civil rights lawsuit the EEOC brought in July, charging TLS hiring practices violated Title VII, which bars hiring discrimination, including how an employer announces vacancies.

The EEOC said Toyota's past practices, while "superficially neutral," made it hard for blacks and women to learn of openings for drivers and auto accessories installers because positions were filled mainly through union and personal referrals.

The EEOC sued on behalf of an unknown number of people who might have applied for the jobs, as well as Sandra Burrows, a black woman who did learn of openings and applied in August 1996 but was never called.

As part of the settlement, Burrows, 40, of Perth Amboy, got \$50,000 from TLS, and was offered a position, which she declined, Stathis said.

In addition, TLS has agreed to contact welfare-to-work programs and community groups that can refer qualified applicants.

Contact with the NAACP and Urban League has already resulted in referrals who were hired, Stathis said.

Federal oversight ends for NJ police test

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — A settlement announced between New Jersey and the federal Department of Justice ended federal oversight of the test used for more than a decade to screen applicants for law enforcement positions throughout the state.

The unexpected settlement forced state officials to postpone a test scheduled to be given to 2,900 applicants. The Justice Department "basically

made us an offer we couldn't refuse," said state Department of Personnel spokesman Bob McHugh.

Twelve years ago, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People sued the state over its tests, saying they unfairly kept minorities out of law enforcement.

Since then, the federal government has overseen administration of a test used by about 400 munic-

ipalities nationwide, but McHugh said the oversight "and the four-hour test" were ineffective.

"It's been pretty unwieldy. There's been the issue of too many cooks," he said of the oversight, adding that the test had also "outlived its usefulness."

A message seeking comment from the NAACP was not immediately returned.

SHL Landy Jacob, based in State College,

Pa., has been contracted by the state to develop the new test, which is expected to be completed within the next few months and administered sometime in the fall.

Bill Dressed, executive director of the League of Municipalities, said town leaders would watch the new testing process closely.

"I guess we have to see what this new test will come up with," he said, adding that the old

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Farrakhan's remorse for Malcolm X's assassination

Continued from page A1

after such evil foolish talk about his benefactor. Elijah Muhammad. In trying to rob him of the divine glory which Allah has bestowed upon him. Such a man as Malcolm is worthy of death," Farrakhan wrote.

Also, the three men convicted of the murder, Talmadge, Hayer, Norman X Butler, and Thomas B3X Johnson, were all members of the Nation of Islam, and were also members of the Newark Mosque, where Farrakhan was the day Malcolm X was shot.

In the following years, Farrakhan made statements insinuating that Malcolm had deserved punishment. In the interview, footage is shown of Farrakhan making the statement: "If we dealt with him the way the Nation deals with a traitor, what business is it of yours?"

In the interview Farrakhan said they were people in the inner circle of the NOI leadership that envied Malcolm, but denied himself having any envy towards Malcolm.

"For several months [after the assassination] I painted a picture of your father with all these bullet holes in his chest, and I sat at the head of the table, and I thought, 'My God, what a man, who was the example of a man to me, and I wept,'" Farrakhan said.

"I wish Malcolm X were alive today, and not dead. Yes, it is true that black men pulled the trigger. We can not deny any responsibility in this. Where we are responsible, where our hands are apart of this, we beg God's forgiveness," Farrakhan said.

Attallah Shabazz expressed the emotional struggle she went through with this meeting. "I did not know if I wanted to sit across from him. I did not want to stand at a podium, but Attallah Shabazz said, 'I am a child with the forever memory of the most significant man in my life standing at a podium and failing backwards. That's forever,' she said.

She also discussed the anguish her family went through after her father's death.

Indeed the FBI probably had something to do with it. But we have to say adult men between the ages of 20-40, black faces, who chose to put a trigger in their hand, and unload until it was empty have to be culpable.

"You can't keep pointing the finger because most of the people not killed from a grassy knoll, and I have sisters who are spun out into this environment as housewives, uneducated. We knew to stay silent, because as a child I thought it could happen to me. I thought if we spoke out, or said something, they would take my mother, they would take one of us.

"I got to hear reports of the traitor deserved it, so it never could go away. Those reports did not come from the government. Those reports did not come from the police. They came from the tan and brown and black faces that once claimed themselves family members."

Betty Shabazz had publicly accused Farrakhan of having a role in the murder. She reconciled with him after her daughter, Quibilah, was charged in 1994 with plotting to hire a hit man to kill Farrakhan. The charges were later dropped. Quibilah's son Malcolm was accused of starting the 1997 fire that killed Betty Shabazz.

Observers believe that Farrakhan is coming to terms with his own mortality, as he is battling prostate cancer and other ailments.

"Before I came here I prayed and included my parents," said Shabazz. "They had to walk with me to the hotel."

Farrakhan responded: "It was the dynamic inside of the nation that troubled brother Malcolm at the highest echelon in the nation. There was envy of Malcolm. I never envied him."

There were those in the circle who feared him, the kind of publicity he was getting, the kind of attention he was getting, he was the most vocal, the most loved, the most honored and respected."

They also discussed the other assassination plots. The FBI and the NYPD had Malcolm under surveillance.

"My father knew everybody personally. The list was longer than those who pulled the trigger," said Shabazz.

AMOCO's investments in slave labor



Jane Alley

Continued from page A1

"It's a complete dehumanization of Africans as sub-humans," said Jesse Sage, Associate Director of AASG. "On the grassroots level, Americans are outraged. I'm glad to see the activism in Newark. To sit here while millions are being killed (and do nothing) is inexcusable."

Sage said the reason people don't know more about Sudan is because of little media coverage. "Our goal is to make this immediate, and to get coverage, to

make this vivid for Americans. Tens of thousands are abducted into slavery in the Sudan."

The AASG is primarily concerned with silence from the United States, said AASG President Charles Jacobs.

"Our campaign is focused on pressing the president to take action in Sudan," she said. "Look at Kosovo. Ten thousand died there, but two million have died in the Sudan. We are an abolitionist nation, the President has not used his office to help, that's why it's important for grassroots activists like Newark's to protest."

On June 9, "National Sudan Day," Rev. James will join activists and church groups in Washington for a public demonstration of vigils, teach-ins and prayers, in an effort to persuade President Clinton to take action in Sudan.

Perhaps he would if he heard Jane Alley's story. Alley, a former citizen of Sudan who escaped raids in her village, described one raid in a press conference in Newark:

"...Suddenly, three Arab soldiers emerged with machine guns on their shoulders. One of the soldiers went around setting fire to the huts. I heard Tokosang, (a neighbor) scream: 'Please don't hurt my children...What do you want?' Tokosang's three children were screaming too: 'Mama! Mama! Mama!'"

"Then I heard a gunshot. Tokosang stopped screaming. The Arab soldiers had shot her in cold blood. I ran to my house, gathered my children and we hid in a nearby bush. There was chaos and confusion, women running, children crying, machine guns spewing bullets. Behind the bush, I lay over my children to protect them. Then soldiers went into my home and set the house on fire. Since then, I have not seen Tokosang's children. I feel they have been enslaved by the Arab invaders."

"This is just one incident. But think about the thousands of children and women in Sudan who have been captured in more or less the same way and taken into bondage every day!"

SBA not really user friendly

Hispanic population for putting their money back into their community. She said the best information she received before hiring a financial adviser was from Bank O Popular, a leading Hispanic institution. She attributed this to Hispanics being better informed when it comes to financing as opposed to African Americans.

"Blacks are fragmented as to where we put our money," Soules said in regard to banking.

Over the years, the SBA has been a proponent of and for small businesses. It will do what banks are not willing to do - provide start-up capital.

"The SBA is always a partner for the lender (banks)," said Menta. "What the SBA is doing

is guaranteeing a loan - 60 percent of a loan is guaranteed by the U.S. government. For start ups banks will not do start-up financing on their own and this is where the SBA comes in."

The intent, however, of people who venture into businesses is to grow their business and this seems to be where the SBA loan program falls short of its 47-year-old mission.

They make these grandiose comments that they're investing in the black community. They know what their needs are, but they give you the minimum amount," said Soules. "I already had a business but in order to move forward I needed more money."

Although not aligned where it would like to be in the black

community, the SBA has steadily grown its figures - in 1994 it approved a total of 13 loans for \$2 million. That amount more than doubled in 2000, but still is disproportionate to other dollar figures in total loans approved for other minorities.

"The amount goal is to get to the \$150 million mark to really show that we're on our way," said Menta of the black community. To date African Americans are receiving an average loan of \$82,000.



Philly's make the

Getting young African Americans to the ballot in the 2000 elections

Continued from page A1

"The 18 to 25 age group is increasing in proportion with the population but they have the least turnout. We need to communicate with them using vehicles that can reach them," said Belcher.

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic and Statistics Administration, voter turnout for the 1996 election was at an all time low with only 54.2 percent of the voting age population voting. But based on data compiled by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, only 32.4 percent of Black youth reported voting. The U.S. Census Bureau doesn't think that is such a bad thing since Black voter participation only dropped by 3 percent, while White participation dropped by 8 percent.

But Belcher still thinks there is a problem, which he attributes to a disconnect that young people have between politics and what they believe can improve their community.

"They think volunteerism is a better way to improve the community than politics," added Belcher.

He argues that politics are

important, especially congressional races, which he believes are the key races.

"It is in Congress that laws on issues like racial profiling and tax laws are made," continued Belcher.

It is also in Congress where legislation affecting the rights of ex-convicts to vote is set.

According to an April 3 National Review article, 32 states currently forbid parolees or those on probation from voting - an increasingly large number of whom are Black youth. And in 14 states, ex-convicts are stripped of their right to vote. This means that 4 million African Americans who have gone through the criminal justice system won't be able to vote.

"These people lose their voting rights, some of them before they even reach 18," said Campbell.

Some young people, however, are motivated to vote.

"We have to make use of the right given to us in the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Our ancestors shed blood and tears for us to vote. So I am voting this year," said Tricia Wilson, English major at Alabama A&M University.

History marches into Elizabeth

By Kelly Foster

ELIZABETH—Elizabeth made history May 7th by having its first annual African Heritage Day parade.

The Elizabeth based group United Youth of New Jersey and its partner, African Community Together Inc., organized the festivities.

About 50 groups participated in the parade, braving 90 degree weather. The two mile route started at the Mickey Walker Community Center on Anne Street, continued onto Magnolia Street and Broad Street, and ended at City Hall, where WBLS spun records for the approximately 1500 spectators and city freetholders issued a proclamation to United Youth of New Jersey.

A few weeks prior to the parade, the United Youth of New Jersey Freetholders presented a \$7,500 check to United Youth and African Community Together for funding.

"The most exciting group in the parade is the inclusion of the world famous Tuskegee Airman," said United Youth Freetholder Angel Estrada. The Airman are the only detachment never to lose a bomber that they escorted into the flak-filled skies of Europe and Africa during the Second World War.

Said Tuskegee Airman Thomas Highsmith, from the Hammill M. Cox, Jr. chapter, "We got the opportunity to defend our country and gain our place in the annals of history. We contributed to the successful war effort."

"The parade was a way for us to bring unity to Elizabeth," said Charlotte Brown, President and Co-founder of United



Shabazz High School Photo by Kelly Foster

Youth. "We needed to do something inspiring."

Marchers included the Newark's Malcolm X Shabazz High School Band, N-Trigue, a hip hop band, a mounted unit known as The Black Heritage Riders, and the Elizabeth Little League, also the Unique Drillers of New Jersey along with United Youth's drill team and the School House Stompers from Atlantic City, among others.

"The groups were highly motivated. It was amazing," said Brown.

The United Youth drill team had been marching in Newark for the last four years. For the past three years, they have marched at the Miss America parade in Atlantic City.

"We decided it was time to have our own parade," said Brown. Different organizations throughout Elizabeth collaborated with United Youth to plan the parade.

This was the work of the parade committee. All Black folks did this," boasted Brown, who said the parade took two years to plan.

"This was something long overdue in the city of Elizabeth," commented Mayor Chris Bollwage.

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Commemoration Honoring Malcolm X



By Dr. Conrad W. Worrill

On May 19th, throughout the world, we will be celebrating the 75th Birthday Commemoration Honoring Malcolm X. Malcolm X was one of our great African in America leaders who was born on May 19, 1925 in Omaha, Nebraska.

Even though Malcolm is no longer physically with us his spirit still lives and his profound contributions to worldwide African Liberation remain significant.

It was on February 21, 1965 that Malcolm X was assassinated at the Audubon Ballroom in Manhattan, New York by forces who were trying to stop his impact on our movement. He will forever remain our "Shining Black Prince."

Malcolm X is a man that should be studied carefully in our efforts to examine a critical period in our history—the 1960's. For it was during this period that Malcolm X became an internationally known and respected African in America leader, whose ideas were widely discussed and debated.

It was through the Nation of Islam, under the leadership of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, that Malcolm X was given an opportunity to develop his tremendous talents as a teacher, researcher, orator, and organizer.

Malcolm X joined the Nation of Islam while in prison in 1952. After his release in the mid 1950's, Malcolm X became a full-time minister for the Nation of Islam that became one of the most important organizations in the history of African in America, people. From his main base in Harlem, at Mosque Number 7, he launched his talents on the world.

Malcolm X was a revolutionary who presented a model of Black manhood that shook the world. When Malcolm X finally left the Nation of Islam, because of internal differences, he decided to take his first trip to Mother Africa. Malcolm spent five weeks in Africa, from April 13th to May 21st, 1964.

This trip helped reestablish our links with the movement to reclaim "Africa for the Africans." Malcolm met many of the leaders and people of Africa. He visited Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Lebanon, Nigeria, Ghana, Monrovia, Liberia, Senegal, Tanzania, Guinea, Morocco, and Algeria.

This trip and subsequent trips abroad helped Malcolm sharpen his understanding of the worldwide system of white supremacy as the number one enemy of African people throughout the world. This has not changed.

After leaving the Nation of Islam, Malcolm began to broaden his organizing strategies by

attempting to reach out and work with many of the more established civil rights organizations and movement tendencies to a common organizational vehicle. Malcolm began building this vehicle through his establish-

In this role, Malcolm articulated many important concepts and ideas that helped strengthen the Black Nationalist Movement in this country, as well as, the Civil Rights Movement. His speech, "The Ballot or the Bullet," still rings in our ears. His conception of the role of "House Negroes" vs "Field Negroes" is still with us today. And his coining the phrase, "By Any Means Necessary" are just a few of the ideas and concepts that concretely impacted the Black movement.

ment of the Organization For Afro-American Unity (OAAU). Malcolm felt that a United Front was the necessary mecha-

nism by which the political consciousness of African American people could be raised. Also, he felt that this United Front would be the common voice we needed to represent the Black Liberation movement in this country. Many

In the spirit of Malcolm, let us summarize his contributions:

1. Malcolm X was a concrete example that if you discipline yourself and find a new outlook on life you can transform your behavior.

2. From 1952 - 1963, Malcolm X helped the Honorable Elijah Muhammad build the Nation of Islam into a powerful force.

3. During this same period, Malcolm became the spokesman for the Honorable Elijah Muhammad and the Nation of Islam, and thus, became a spokesman for the Black Nationalist Movement in one of the most important periods in our history—the period of the mid 1950's through the 1960's.

4. In this role, Malcolm articulated many important concepts and ideas that helped strengthen the Black Nationalist Movement in this country, as well as, the Civil Rights Movement. His speech, "The Ballot or the Bullet," still rings in our ears. His conception of the role of "House Negroes" vs "Field Negroes" is still with us today. And his coining the phrase, "By Any Means Necessary" are just a few of the ideas and concepts that concretely impacted the Black movement.

5. Malcolm X defined Black Nationalism in simple terminology that appealed to the Black masses when he said, "the political philosophy of Black

nationalism is that Blacks should control the politics and politicians in our own community. The economic philosophy of Black nationalism must be designed to re-educate our community to the importance of controlling the economy in which we live by owning and operating the businesses. The social philosophy of Black nationalism is we must become socially mature enough to realize the responsibility on us to elevate the conditions and standards of our community to a higher level."

6. Malcolm X linked the Black struggle in this country with the struggle of African people around the world.

7. Malcolm helped shape Black peoples pride in themselves and by so doing, he exposed, by teaching, that the greatest crime of white people was they taught us to hate ourselves. It was Malcolm's spirit that generated the Black Pride, Black Studies, and Black Power phases of our movement.

So, on the one hand, Malcolm helped internationalize our struggle and on the other hand, he linked it up to the mass struggle and issues that faced our people in America. By taking this approach, Malcolm was able to provide a basis for the continued historical efforts to build worldwide African unity.

Remember Malcolm!

CityLife

Jubilee Singers: Sacrifice and Glory

On November 16, 1871, a group of unknown singers—all but two of them former slaves, many of them still in their teens—arrived at Oberlin College in Ohio, to perform before a national convention of influential ministers. After a few standard ballads, the chorus began to sing spirituals "Steal Away" and other songs "associated with slavery and the dark past, sacred to our parents," as soprano Ella Sheppard recalled. It was one of the first public performances of the sacred music African Americans had sung in fields and behind closed doors.

"All of a sudden, there was no talking," says musicologist Horace Boyer. "They said you could hear the soft weeping . . . and I'm sure that the Jubilee Singers were joining them in tears, because sometimes when you think about what you are singing, particularly if you believe it, you can't help but be moved."

Recently, **THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE** presents Jubilee Singers: Sacrifice and Glory, a story of faith, tribulation, and the power of song. Produced by Llewellyn Smith, aired on PBS.

The Jubilee Singers tells the story of a group of former slaves who battled prejudice and oppression to sing their way into a nation's heart. Eventually, they would perform for presidents and queens, tour the United States and Europe, and establish songs like "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" and "This Little Light of Mine" as a cherished part of the nation's musical heritage. The program features today's Fisk Jubilee Singers performing these and many other spirituals; Dion Graham nar-

rates. The concert in Oberlin was the turning point in a daring fundraising experiment for impoverished Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, where the singers were students. Established in January 1866, Fisk taught freed slaves how to count their wages, how to write the new names they had chosen for themselves, and read both the ballot and the Bible. Despite emancipation, the South was a dangerous place. Fisk students who dared teach in the country-



Former slaves who became the Fisk Jubilee Singers. L-R Patti Malone, Ra Hall, Mabel Lewis, F.J. Loudin, Ella Sheppard, Jennie Jackson, Maggie Porter and George E. Barrett

persevered. "I'm depending on God, not you," he told the AMA, and set off with his singers and the last \$40 of the school's treasury. "Not one of us had an overcoat or wrap," remembered Ella Sheppard. "Taking every cent he had, and all he could borrow, Mr. White started with his little band of singers to sing the money out of the hearts and pockets of people."

Following the path of the Underground Railway, the group made its debut in Cincinnati.

They sang for Mark Twain, President Ulysses S. Grant, Congressmen, diplomats. "These singers," said one newspaper, "are doing a great work for humanity."

Ella Sheppard wrote, "We sang as if inspired. We not only paid the debts at home, we carried home \$20,000 with which was purchased the site of our new school. We returned to Fisk amid great rejoicing."

After less than two weeks rest, the singers were back on the road, touring the Eastern United States. Eventually they would tour Europe to universal acclaim and sing for the royal families of Holland, Germany, and Britain.

"They are real Negroes," Queen Victoria wrote in her journal. "They come from America and have been slaves. They sing extremely well together."

The group raised what today would be millions of dollars, but they paid a terrible price. Worn down by the relentless schedule, an advance man suffered a nervous breakdown. George White lost his wife to typhoid fever. White himself nearly died of a pulmonary hemorrhage. Contralto Minnie Tate's voice was torn to shreds. Tenor Benjamin

Holmes's nagging cough was caused by tuberculosis. They faced discrimination on the road and from the press. The New York World called them "trained monkeys" who sang "with a wild, dark air" and the Newark Evening Courier listed them as if they were items from a slave dealer's catalogue. A grueling tour of Germany—98 days, 41 towns, 68 concerts brought with it low morale, frayed nerves, and rivalries among the singers.

After almost seven years of touring, the Jubilee Singers returned home. They were honored by Fisk for raising the funds to complete Jubilee Hall and saved their school.

But their contributions extended far beyond Fisk University. They had introduced the world to the power of spirituals and challenged racial stereotypes on two continents. "In their wake, hotels, railways, steamship lines, and boards of education integrated their facilities. The Jubilees not only introduced the world to the music of black America, they championed the liberties of all Americans," says Andrew Ward, co-writer of the documentary and author of *Dark Midnight When I Rise: The*

Story of the Jubilee Singers. More than 123 years later, the Jubilee Singers of Fisk University continue the concert tradition begun by that courageous original chorus of former slaves.



Ella Sheppard, soprano and assistant musical director

side were routinely assaulted and whipped by Ku Klux Klan nightriders; one was shot at in his classroom; another had her school building burned to the ground.

Charged with keeping the financially troubled school afloat, treasurer George Leonard White proposed taking Fisk's most gifted singers on a fundraising tour of the North. Before they even left town, they encountered resistance: the parents were afraid to let their children go.

White's fellow teachers opposed the tour; and the American Missionary Association, the northern religious organization that operated Fisk, refused to help, worried that the chorus's appeal for funds would jeopardize their own fundraising activities. But White

Despite the warm reception, donations totaled less than \$30. Night after night, it was the same: crowds loved their singing, but the collection plate yielded barely enough to cover their expenses.

Yet no one turned back. "All we wanted," recalled soprano Maggie Porter, "was for Fisk to stand."

Life on the road took its toll. White and the singers endured rheumatism, bronchitis, chronic coughs. Their clothes ran to rags. But after the triumphant Oberlin performance, word started to spread. In December, the Jubilee Singers appeared at Henry Ward Beecher's weekly prayer meeting at Brooklyn's Plymouth Church.

"Every church wanted the Jubilee Singers from that time on," wrote Maggie Porter.

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Left: Ali Shaheed Muhammad, Dawn Robinson, and Raphael Saadiq together make up Lucy Pearl
Photo courtesy of Shore Fire Media

Saadiq, Robinson, Muhammad join forces as supergroup Lucy Pearl

By Rob Williams
Staff Writer

When the time came for singer Raphael Saadiq to think of a name for his new group (which includes Dawn Robinson and Ali Shaheed Muhammad) it took nothing more than just sitting back and letting it come when the light bulb came on.

"I just looked at each individual, and thought we were pretty unique. I thought it was a unique name because no one had a name like it," said Raphael Saadiq in a recent telephone interview.

He could not have picked a better name, Lucy Pearl, as it lives up to its name of being a pearl through its new self-titled album on Saadiq's music label, Pookie Records.

"I do more of the creative stuff in the production, and the band. Ali brings more of the production thing, making sure we're not doing it whack, and Dawn adds a woman's side to the group, and has a strong vocal ability. She also writes her own lyrics. That's what makes Lucy Pearl different. It is not just one thing."

Lucy Pearl fuses together former members three of the hottest groups of the early 1990s. Saadiq is best known for his role as lead singer with the group, Tony! Toni! Toné!, which included his brother Dwayne Wiggins and cousin Timbaland. He made a name for himself by banking on a dying concept in R&B music, the band's something that peaked in the 1970s with Earth, Wind & Fire, and the Isley Brothers. Tony! Toni! Toné!, which released its first album in the late 1980s, became known for a string of hits, including "Anniversary," "Hey Little Walter," "The Ladies," "It Never Rains in Southern California," "Just Me and You," and others. Saadiq also made a name for

himself as a solo artist, with the recent success of "Involved," off "The PJs" soundtrack, and as a producer and writer, with the recent D'Angelo hit, "Untitled (How Does It Feel)." To his credit, Ali Shaheed Muhammad brings to the group his A Tribe Called Quest flavor, a different, funkier side of R&B and hip-hop that meshed well with former groupmates Q-Tip's voice and Phife's sound. Responsible for the music behind the hip-hop classic "Scenario," "We Got The Jazz," "Midnight Marauders," and "Benita Applebaum."



Muhammad also gained notoriety for producing for many other established artists.

Dawn Robinson is known for lead vocals in the group, En Vogue, which broke with its hit "Hold On (To Your Love)," remake of Aretha Franklin's "Giving Him Something He Can Feel," "Never Gonna Get It," and "Don't Let Go," before breaking with the group and joining Dr. Dre's Aftermath/Interscope Records. Even though she never released an album with the label, she sung the hook to The Firm's "Firm Biz," featuring the musical collaboration of Nas, Nature, AZ, and Foxy Brown.

"This group is about three people just getting together and doing what they do," said Saadiq. "But it was not always these three making the elements of

Lucy Pearl. Saadiq, who always wanted to start a group like this, met Muhammad around 1992 after working on projects with A Tribe Called Quest, and eventually joined Ummah, the production team that includes Q-Tip and Muhammad. Later, Saadiq and Muhammad, and D'Angelo (Muhammad worked with D'Angelo on his first album "Brown Sugar") and the three started the idea of forming the group.

"Originally, it was going to be three guys, me, Ali, and D'Angelo, but he had to do his record. So we decided to try a girl. We tried Dawn, and that's how it really came about. She joined the group in 1998," said Saadiq.

Robinson, who knew Saadiq and Muhammad from their Oakland, CA days was about to sign with another label when they asked her to join.

"When they told me what they wanted to do, I was immediately excited," Robinson said. "I think, I almost nussed out."

Two years later, the group is getting ready to release its first album, and are having success with its first release, "Dance Tonight," which is featured on the "Love & Basketball" soundtrack.

The album begins with a remixed version of "Ask of You," by Tony! Toni! Toné!, with the hook of En Vogue's "Don't Let Go," and the best behind "Midnight Marauders," from A Tribe Called Quest album that carries the same name. Along with catchy and interesting twists in the lyrics and songs, and an appearance by Q-Tip and Snooty Dog, Lucy Pearl delivers on the anticipation behind the meeting three top groups in recent times. "The beauty is that it is a total collaboration," Robinson said. "We can go anywhere at any time, do whatever we want, and then come back. It's like home."



Toni Braxton The Heat LaFace/Arista Records

Although it's a different Toni Braxton singing the songs, it's the same familiar sound of heartbreak. Before you cool from anticipation for her latest album "The Heat," Braxton provides a good selection of songs that do show an attempt to break up and break up the monotonous "my man done left me" feeling that listeners walked away with from the last two albums.

The new Toni, one who has gained perspective and strength from her trials with bankruptcy (she thanks her legal crew in her thanks you!) to her string of break-ups with high profile personalities. In fact, in her thanks she reflects on her career, things she has done, and things she would never do again.

Those changes in fact are recognized in many of her songs. On the "He Wasn't Man Enough," a Darkchild produced piece by producing sensation Fred Jenkins III and his brother Rodney. The uptempo violin-accompanied tune, a trademark of the Jenks sound, gives us a glimpse of a different Braxton tone, on talking about how she kicked the man to the curb. Also, Braxton explores intimate romantic nights on "The Heat" and Diane Warren's "Spanish Guitar."

Braxton also takes an impressive songwriting role penning "Speaking in Tongues" and co-writing "The Heat," "Gimme Some," and three other songs.

Armed with her hitmaking producers and songwriter Diane Warren, Braxton packs the "The Heat" with songs that will certainly make those predicting a fading comeback back a sweat.

MUSIC NOTES

James Brown, Curtis Mayfield to be honored

Singers James Brown and the late Curtis Mayfield will be honored with others for their

with the Hitmaker Award. The Songwriters' Hall of Fame was founded in 1969 and recognizes the work and lives of those who compose music and songs.

Past Hall of Fame honorees have included Otis Redding, Stevie Wonder, Cole Porter, John Lennon, Bob Dylan and Burl Ives.

Sammy Davis Jr. Estate sues Universal Music

Davis died on May 16, 1990 from cancer.

MGM-Verve was later taken over by Polygram, which was swallowed into the Universal Music Group family in 1998. The lawsuit also alleges that Davis was not paid royalties from the licensing of these individual songs for 23 years, and that the royalties he did receive were miscalculated without being notified or seeing an accounting statement.

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Stevie Wonder File photo



Johnny Mathis File photo



Sammy Davis Jr. File photo



Vanessa Williams File photo

songwriting success by the National Academy of Popular Music/Songwriters' Hall of Fame. Brown will be inducted June 15 at a dinner in New York City, along with Don Henley, Glenn Frey, and James Taylor.

Mayfield, who died in December, will be inducted posthumously.

Among the special recognition awards, will be Johnny Mathis, who will be honored

The estate of Sammy Davis Jr. recently filed a lawsuit against Universal Music Group and the Polygram Records division, claiming breach-of-contract fraud, and failure to pay royalties.

The lawsuit was filed in the court system of the Southern District of New York on behalf of Alton Gore Davis, Sammy Davis' widow.

The lawsuit alleges that Davis and MGM-Verve Records had an agreement in 1976 to release 35 of Davis' songs. It also

Singer and actress Vanessa L. Williams recently gave birth to a daughter in Los Angeles on Monday.

L.A. Laker Rick Fox, welcomed Sasha Gabriella Fox as their first child together into their large family, which includes her three children from a previous marriage and Fox's son from a previous relationship.

The couple was married in September 1999.

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Billboard

WEDNESDAY MAY 17

NEWARK — The *Princy* presents "Out of School" art exhibit at 6 p.m. For further information, call (973) 639-7842.

THURSDAY, MAY 18

NEW BRUNSWICK — The State Theater presents the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra at 8 p.m. For further information, call (732) 247-7469.

NEWARK — WBOQ/88.3 FM presents "A Tribute to Bill Jackson," at 7 p.m. at NJPAC. For further information, call (973) 624-6850, ext. 200.

NEW BRUNSWICK — The State Theater presents "Roméo and Juliet" ballet at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. For further information, call (732) 246-7469.

FRIDAY, MAY 19

NEW BRUNSWICK — The State Theater presents Bristol-Myers Squibb Artist-in-Residence, at 7 p.m. For more information, call (732) 246-7469.

SATURDAY, MAY 20

PISCATAWAY — Orde of Piscataway presents "A View from the Bridges," 8:30 p.m. For more information, call (732) 424-0384.

SUNDAY, MAY 21

NEW BRUNSWICK — The Red Bull-ton Visible Fictions premieres at the State Theater. For more information, call (732) 745-5553.

Kam's Capsules

For films opening
May 12, 2000

Lorraine Hansberry lectures held

NEWARK—Lloyd Richards, director of the original production of "A Raisin in the Sun," will be the keynote speaker at The Newark Public Library, on Thursday, May 18, as part of the library's Lorraine Hansberry Lecture Series. The program begins at 7 p.m. in Centennial Hall, located on the second floor of the main library, 5 Washington Street. It is free and open to the public.

Lorraine Hansberry was the first African-American author ever to win the New York Drama Critics Circle Award. She won it for "A Raisin in the Sun," the



Russell Crowe, star of "Gladiator"

Courtesy of Dreamworks

By Kam Williams

"Veni. Vidi. Vici." Thus spoke Caesar after a particularly satisfying rout of Pharaonic Pon-

tificus back in Roman Times. With the assistance of computer-generated special effects, "Gladiator" successfully transports us back to those days of gladiatorial

CENTER STAGE: Ballet gets the trite Patti Batten and the seamy co-chairs. Harold Scott, the 1995 recipient of the Lloyd Richards Directors Award, is honorary chair. Donations to the lecture series should be made payable to The Newark Public Library, c/o Development Department, Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07102.

HAMLET: "71st season version of Shakespeare's classic. Present-day reweave features a brooding

rol wreaths, The Colosseum and, especially, gruesome hand-to-hand combat. Oscar nominee Russell Crowe (for "The Insider") deserves another for his portrayal of the mythical Maximus, a swaggering, sword-swinging general turned slave with the motto, "I came. I saw. I kicked butt."

Forget the superficial resemblance to Ben Hur (1959), the most honored motion picture of all time (11 Oscars). With all due respect, "Gladiator" blows "Ben Hur" right out of his chariot. Sure, these epic tales are equally majestic in their generosity of cinematography. They look alike, are set at about the same time, in the same place, and even share the same simple theme: betrayal and retribution.

But the visceral combat sequences of "Gladiator" make "Ben Hur" look as harmless as Nerf warfare. A better comparison of Gladiator's visual effects would be to those of "Saving Private Ryan," another film produced by Steven Spielberg's Dreamworks Pictures. Not surprisingly, Neil Corbould served as special effects supervisor for both movies.

Ben Hur (Charlton Heston) was a Jewish prince, forced into slavery by a Roman friend-turned-arch enemy for political reasons. Through fortuitous

Ethan Hawke in the title role as CEO of fledgling NYC film company. With Bill Murray as a polearm-wielding and jaunty Julius Stiles as Ophelia. Straight to video or not, straight to video, that is the question.

HELD UP: Nis Long dumps player Jamie Fox at a convenience store in the desert just as a hold up takes place. Trash-talking

Art Exhibit
Rahway—The Gallery at The Arts Guild of Rahway will host an exhibit of art works by the advanced art students of Rahway High School entitled "Let Me from May 31 - June 18, 2000."

There will be a reception with the artists on Sunday, June 4 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Under the guidance of Rahway High School art teacher Joann Campanelli, the advanced students have been encouraged to exhibit in a variety of styles, techniques and materials. The students have also titled the exhibit and created the design for the poster that will advertise the event. One of their projects in preparation for this show was to design and paint

near life-size freestanding cut out self-portraits some of which will be included in this exhibit. This is the second student art exhibit presented by The Arts Guild and is to become an annual event. This year The Guild will award cash prizes for first, second and third place. Winners will be selected by The Arts Guild's Executive Director, Lawrence Cappiello and Rahway High Art Teacher, Joann Campanelli.

Arts—American Youth Dance Company, founded by artistic director Nancy King, is based at the King Center for the Performing Arts in Wanaque, N.J. The group's performers are of various ages, but all share a love for dance and theater. The company has performed in concerts throughout New Jersey, across the U.S. and abroad. The group and its members have averaged over 100 awards each year in state, regional, and international festivals. They annually present a full-length production of "The Nutcracker," and have been joined by guest artists from New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, and Dance Theater of Harlem. Many of the company's members have started professional careers on Broadway.

Tickets for the shows are \$18 for adults and \$9 for children (under 14), and may be purchased by telephone at 1-888-GO-NJPAC (888-666-5722), or at the NJPAC Box Office at One Center Street in downtown Newark. The event is presented as part of the Bell Atlantic Passport to Culture Series.

and we all willingly fell under her powers. Her power to move her audience and take them with her to each level of the performance was amazing. She never seemed to tire or falter. Even her mother, Margie Shaheed, though acquainted with the play prior to her daughter's first performance, seemed enthralled and stirred by the force of her daughter's power of persuasion. You could see Aqueelah silently and intently persuaded the audience to live the life she portrayed and experience each fervent upheaval of her soul. It would be a favor granted to myself and others to experience this Butterfly's flight again, for Aqueelah's perfect acting ability.

coincidence, Ben Hur ultimately gets his chance to avenge his humiliation in a chariot race. In "Gladiator," loyal General Maximus ends up enslaved after a betrayal by the ambitious Commodus, son of Emperor Marcus Aurelius.

Maximus, too, makes the most of an opportunity for brutally sweet payback in a crowd-melting Colosseum finale. So the storyline isn't exactly original. With "Gladiator," Oscar-nominated director Ridley Scott (Thelma & Louise) easily eclipses an impressive resume which includes "Alien" and "Blade Runner."

And he's already hard at work on "Hannibal," the sequel to "Silence of the Lambs."

Here, Scott tapped fellow Brit Richard Harris (Carnegie) for the role of Marcus Aurelius, the aged and fast-expiring Roman emperor. The film opens, a la Saving Private Ryan, in the last, ominous moments before battle. A decapitated Roman cavalryman, strapped onto his horse, breaks through the fog, breaching the gap between the armies and delivering a blood-curdling message from the German barbarians. This gory show of saber-rattling is only a hint at the slaughter about to ensue.

"At my signal, unleash

Hell," a grim Maximus instructs his minions. A nod, and The Battle of Denham is on, an ungodly scenario of flaming arrows, molten catapults and gin-sharp swordplay. With the bare general leading in charge, we are treated to cleaving, hacking, immolating and splurging heretofore unmatched in modern cinema. Despite heavy losses, Maximus prevails. The aging Aurelius, despite the existence of progeny (his son Commodus (Joaquin Phoenix) and daughter Lucilla (Connie Nielsen), decides on the brave, loyal Maximus as his hand-picked successor to the throne.

But Commodus doesn't cotton to the idea of losing his throne. So he strangles his father, and orders Maximus put to death. Maximus escapes but ends up enslaved by fight promoter Proximo (the late Oliver Reed), the Don King of his day. Showman Proximo manages a traveling team of slave gladiators who fight to the death in open-air emporiums. Edge-of-your-seat excitement aplenty as the brave, loyal Maximus goes to freedom, one head at a time.

Excellent ****

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Three energetic, award-winning young dance companies jam at NJPAC



Newark Arts High School Dance Ensemble

File photo

NEWARK—The New Jersey Performing Arts Center plays host to Dance Jam, a series of performances, on Saturday, May 20 and Sunday, May 21 in the Victoria Theater. This event features performances by American Youth Dance Company, Dance Innovations, and Newark Arts

High School Dance Ensemble, three award-winning ensembles comprised of promising young dancers from throughout New Jersey. The program for the May 20th and May 21st performances includes the Newark Arts High School Dance Ensemble in "Planet Drum," choreographed by Kim Richardson;

American Youth Dance Company in "Welcome to the Millennium," choreographed by Nancy King, Natalie King and Kyrin Collins, and "Dance Is..." choreographed by King and Collins; and Dance Innovations in two separate pieces, "Higher Ground" and "Balancing Aspirations." The three companies will

join forces for a special program finale.

American Youth Dance Company, founded by artistic director Nancy King, is based at the King Center for the Performing Arts in Wanaque, N.J. The group's performers are of various ages, but all share a love for dance and theater. The company has performed in concerts throughout New Jersey, across the U.S. and abroad. The group and its members have averaged over 100 awards each year in state, regional, and international festivals. They annually present a full-length production of "The Nutcracker," and have been joined by guest artists from New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, and Dance Theater of Harlem. Many of the company's members have started professional careers on Broadway.

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'Sista Butterfly'...One woman's darkness brought to light



Margie Shaheed, Aqueelah Shaheed, Halim Suliman and Lenora Brazzell-Raufa. Photo by Victor J. Meloyre, III

Review By Virginia Bryan
NEWARK—Recently many climbed aboard a butterfly's wings and skyrocketed along with her far up into the heavens. The sensation they experienced was a production by House of Poetry in association with African Globe Theatre Works in Newark—"Sista Butterfly...One Woman's Darkness Brought to Light."

The production was a one-woman performance by Aqueelah Shaheed. Shaheed also wrote the piece. Excellent acting and true to life emotions captivated and held the audience. As you looked around the full room, you noticed people holding their breath while awaiting the next act.

Shaheed truly cast a spell

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Motown Historical Museum

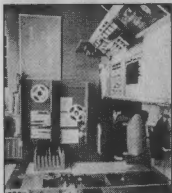


The Motown Historical Museum in Detroit, Michigan

By Gilda Rogers

Are you still searching for people to see and places to visit this summer? With vacation time near, there are many sites to see across the nation. Places that tell the story of the black experience — museums that archive and chronicle the legacy of a rich history. From the Motor City, Detroit, Michigan, to Birmingham, Alabama, where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote the famous "Letter from a Birmingham Jail."

The Motown Historical Museum located in Detroit is one place that is well worth the trip. Everyone has a Motown memory or two, or even three or four. This place churned out hit songs one after the other as if it had an assembly line of talent — and



old recording studio at Hitsville Motown did — The Supremes, Temptations, Miracles, Vandellas, Jr. Walker and the All Stars, Marvelettes, Jackson 5, and Little Stevie Wonder.

The museum traces the roots of Motown's remarkable story and chronicles its impact on 20th century popular culture and musical styles. The story begins with Berry Gordy, Jr. and a small house in Detroit that he

christened, Hitsville USA. From this beginning grew an entertainment enterprise that was among the most creative and influential in the world.

The museum's exhibitions include a fascinating array of photographs, artwork, music, costumes and historical materials. Each tells a story — from the \$800 loan from the Gordy family savings club (the Ber-Berry Co-op) that enabled Berry Gordy, Jr. to produce his first record to the explosive popularity of Motown's artists throughout the world.

There's a museum shop, which sells compact discs, videotapes, audiocassettes, collectibles, books and postcards, and artist photographs. Admission fee is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. Groups of 20 or more receive discounts.

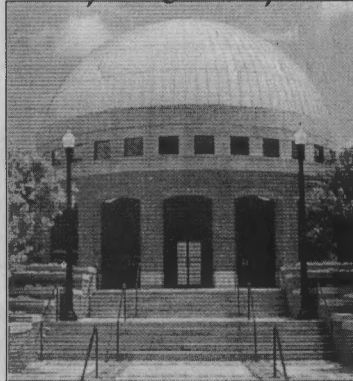


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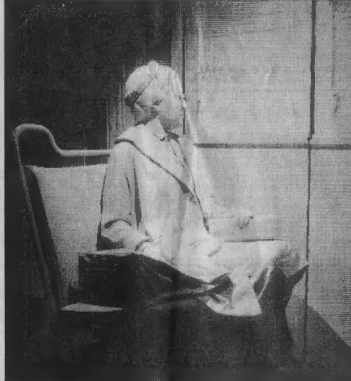


The Motown sound included Motown, Tamla, and Gordy labels

Birmingham Civil Rights Institute



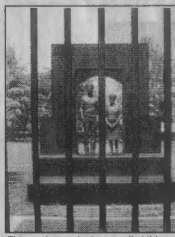
The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute



A life-size statue of Rosa Parks on her historic bus ride

greets visitors, who tour the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, is a tall, clean water fountain, which is clearly marked for "whites" only. Right next to this disturbing graphic is a dirty, rusty sink designated for "colored." Further inside, visitors can hear the resounding voice of the Rev. Martin Luther King reading his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" while they look through the bars of the actual cell door that slammed shut behind him in 1963. Nearby, vintage black-and-white television sets blare the news of the week: Police dogs and high-powered fire hoses are turned on black marchers in downtown Birmingham. There's Rosa Parks, who has been dubbed the

"Mother of the Modern Day Movement," seated on a bus seat. This museum is a comprehensive vision of the past. Across the street from the museum is Kelly Ingram Park where sculptures depict children who were jailed for their part in protests of the city's racial practices. Emotionally charged exhibits and actual footage gives this museum its authenticity, while invoking visitors to remember the struggle and to keep it alive.



Admission is \$5 for adults and \$1 for college students with an ID and free for children 17 and under.

BIRMINGHAM, AL — The struggle for civil rights has been a long, uphill battle for African-Americans. From the days of segregation to bitter confrontations — from gaining the right to vote

to gaining equal employment opportunities — American blacks struggled for equality and eventually, changed the face of our nations.

Standing as a visual testament to those who climbed the

hills of injustice and prejudice is the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. The Institute contains an archival research area, community meeting rooms, galleries for the display of the diverse culture, which evolved out of segregation, and a multi-media

Exhibitory Program which documents the history of Civil Rights from post-World War I to present international milestones in the struggle for human rights.

The first image that

worth noting, worth celebrating, worth preserving. This society suffers from Micronesian, or selective amnesia, when it comes to the black past, almost as though it is just too painful or too embarrassing or too awkward to examine it openly and honestly. So, I am thankful for the exhibition *Reflections In Black*, which refutes the harmful notion of exclusion of black history.

The show is comprised of prints by black photographers taken from 1840 to the present. Collectively, these photos stand as visual testimony to the simple undeniable fact of black life, irrepressible in all its color, in all its glory. More than a mere exhibition, then, the pictures deliver a psychic shock of recognition, serving to fill in a gaping hole in

the cultural memory banks.

The subject matter of the 300 photographs ranges from the plebeian to the celebrated and from the humorous to the abstract. And we learn as much from a dignified wedding portrait of unknown newlyweds, circa 1920, as we do from a pensive shot of James Baldwin and Harry Belafonte at The March on Washington in 1963. In the section of the show entitled *Art and Black Activism*, we see leading civil rights leaders such as Thurgood Marshall, Rosa Parks, Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through the eyes of leading black documentary makers of the civil rights era.

Another segment of the exhibition is devoted to the black photographer as an artist, juxtapos-

ing fact and fantasy to yield a wide array of compositions. A comical piece, entitled *Process and the Doo-rags* (1985), features an a cappella quintet decked out as 1950s-era warblers in shark-skin suits with fried hair. This can be contrasted with the relatively sober and inscrutable *Separation* (1997), a mixed media creation of hieroglyphics around the mummy like a picture of a young boy.

In sum, *Reflections in Black* is a fitting tribute to the vision of the African American photographer, which simultaneously celebrates the diversity of the black experience.

The exhibition runs through July 30th and admission is free. For information, call (202) 357-4500.

Reflections In Black: a history of Black photographers

1840 to Present

By Kam Williams

A picture is worth a thousand words. But to African Americans, once an invisible people as so eloquently described by Ralph Ellison, photographs mean so much more. For generations, blacks went unseen in America. All but ignored by history, black visibility is a relatively recent phenomenon in this culture. For when I was a child not only did segregation exist but you almost never saw black people on television, in movies, in periodicals or history books. In fact, when you did, it was of such significance that you yelled for everybody to come and look.

The cruel underlying message delivered by mainstream American has always been that there was never anything black

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BOARD TRAINING

RESOLUTION FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
The New Brunswick Housing and Redevelopment Authority (the "NBHA") is soliciting proposals for qualified firms to perform the following services and to implement training for the Board of Commissioners.

Further information about the NBHA, the scope of services, the proposal evaluation criteria and the proposed contract can be obtained from the NBHA at 18 Van Dyke Ave., New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901 or by calling 732-745-5137. Ask for the Instructional Materials and Training Proposals submitted without need to regard to the instructions to Proposers will be due no later than 10:00 a.m. on June 1, 2000.

Proposals are due at the above address including an original and three copies not later than 3:00 p.m. on May 21, 2000. Envelopes containing the proposals should be clearly marked: BOARD TRAINING. Keith Cullen, Executive Director \$56.49

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Housing Authority of the City of Long Branch, New Jersey, is soliciting proposals from qualified firms to perform an independent financial audit of the Long Branch Housing Authority for the year ended June 30, 2000. The audit will be performed in accordance with the U.S. General Accounting Office Standards for Audits of Governmental Organizations, Regulations, Instructions and Circulars, the Single Audit Act of 1998, HUD Handbook 747.1, Bureau of Public Housing Accounts, the provisions of 48 CFR Part 101-11.6, 101-11.7, 101-11.8, 101-11.9, 101-12.1, 101-12.2, 101-12.3, 101-12.4, 101-12.5, 101-12.6, 101-12.7, 101-12.8, 101-12.9, 101-13.1, 101-13.2, 101-13.3, 101-13.4, 101-13.5, 101-13.6, 101-13.7, 101-13.8, 101-13.9, 101-14.1, 101-14.2, 101-14.3, 101-14.4, 101-14.5, 101-14.6, 101-14.7, 101-14.8, 101-14.9, 101-15.1, 101-15.2, 101-15.3, 101-15.4, 101-15.5, 101-15.6, 101-15.7, 101-15.8, 101-15.9, 101-16.1, 101-16.2, 101-16.3, 101-16.4, 101-16.5, 101-16.6, 101-16.7, 101-16.8, 101-16.9, 101-17.1, 101-17.2, 101-17.3, 101-17.4, 101-17.5, 101-17.6, 101-17.7, 101-17.8, 101-17.9, 101-18.1, 101-18.2, 101-18.3, 101-18.4, 101-18.5, 101-18.6, 101-18.7, 101-18.8, 101-18.9, 101-19.1, 101-19.2, 101-19.3, 101-19.4, 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Ponder This...

By Greg Moore

21st Century Blaxploitation

As we progress through the new millennium, African-American athletes are becoming more sophisticated in the ways of business and commerce. Athletes such as Wilt Chamberlain, Bill Russell, Curt Flood, Reggie Jackson and Michael Jordan established new standards for determining their value and then demanding it.

Today, players such as Kevin Garnett, Shaquille O'Neal, and Ken Griffey Jr. are walking conglomerates who each signed player contracts worth in excess of \$100 million dollars. In addition, these players earn even more away from their respective sports with lucrative endorsement relationships.

In view of the river of cash flowing to and through these athletes, it'd be like to think that they are all at the top of their financial games. With respect to playing games, such as Shaq, KG, and Jr., the stakes are very high. I mean, were talking nine figures here! Unfortunately, for many athletes, whether they command six or nine figures, far too many allow themselves to get exploited in a routine and somewhat innocuous manner by hiring agents who charge percentage based fees for their services.

The percentage based fee system to which many athletes still subscribe to is not only absurd, but out of step with the business practices observed in the real world.

In the real world, compensation is based on one singular criteria-value added. In other words, the compensation one commands often reflects the value they bring to the entity dispensing that compensation.

In professional sports in general and in the NBA in particular, athletes still relinquish 4% of their earnings to agents who do not confer a corresponding level of value. Does an agent who negotiates a \$45 million dollar deal for a 1.4 million commission?

Apparently, Grant Hill did not think so. Hill bucked tradition by hiring a lawyer to negotiate his contract on a hourly fee basis and saved \$1.7 million dollars in the process. Hill paid his lawyer \$100K for the contract negotiation.

Although a growing number of athletes such as Ray Allen, Tim Duncan and Jerome Williams are following Hill's lead, too many still buy into the old exploitative system. In the NBA, the percentage based fee system is even more absurd because the most recent collective bargaining agreement set forth a fairly rigid, non-negotiable salary cap. This salary cap allows for very little discretion or wiggle room when contracts are negotiated for entering players.

Furthermore, player contracts are boilerplate prefabricated documents which only require the agreed upon numbers to be plugged into the appropriate blank spaces. So with a contract already drafted, and salaries pretty much predetermined, what arguments can an agent advance to justify millions of dollars in commissions? Not many.

Indeed, when pressed on this point, some agents answers are more laughable than the exploitative practices they attempt to justify.

Leonard Armato, who represents Los Angeles star Shaquille O'Neal recently remarked, "Some clients prefer to have the knowledge that there's a fixed cost and not worry about conversations or meetings are work and are billable or were social and not billable." In the process of saving \$1.7 million dollars in agent fees, I really doubt if Grant Hill spent too many sleepless nights worrying about the difference between a social lunch and business lunch. If he did, that's a far better fate than endured by Kareem Abdul Jabbar, who had to play ball into his early 40s as a consequence of the misdeeds of an unscrupulous agent.

Hopefully, more players will get hip and extricate themselves from the tentacles of those which seek only to exploit.

Malcolm X Shabazz breaks ground for new state of the art athletic complex

NEWARK — Malcolm X Shabazz recently broke ground for a new state-of-the-art athletic complex with a ceremony that featured a performance by the school's marching band and Junior ROTC and remarks by Superintendent Marion Bolden and Mayor Sharpe James.

The new facility will feature a football field, eight-lane Olympic regulation track, three tennis courts, soccer field and two softball fields. The complex will encompass 2 1/2 city blocks and will border Hillside, West Bigelow and Johnson Avenues. The complex will also include a fieldhouse with a concession area, public restrooms, and lockers and showers for both boys and girls. Special lighting will be available for outdoor evening events.

I am proud to introduce the plans for the Shabazz Athletic

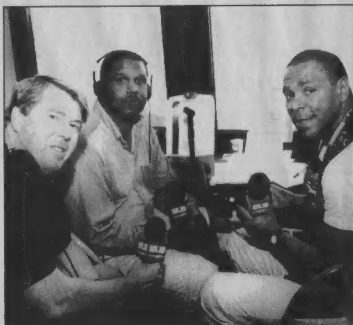
Complex. I think it will be a wonderful addition to the school district and is in line with the city's revitalization plans," said Bolden.

Members of the community will be involved two-fold in the Shabazz Athletic Complex. First, city residents will be able to apply for construction jobs. Contractors for the project will hire qualified candidates to assist.

Second, once the complex is completed, community athletic teams will be invited to use the facility when not in use by the Newark Public Schools.

The Shabazz Athletic Complex will be the first athletic facility constructed by the Newark Public Schools since Underman Field in 1934. It is estimated that the total construction will cost an estimated \$12 million dollars and will be completed in the Spring of 2001.

WLIB broadcasts live at Newark Bears home games



In the sports box with Larry Hardesty (middle) broadcasts his show live at the Bears' Wednesday home games at Riverfront Stadium. He is joined by Bill Taylor (left) owner of the Atlantic League's Long Island Ducks and Frank Bolton (right) in the sports box.

Photo by Herb Glenn

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Joetta Clark named NJ Athlete of the Century



Olympian Joetta Clark was named the New Jersey Athlete of the Century. Clark, a Columbia H.S. product and a graduate of the University of Tennessee, is also the daughter of former Eastside High School principal Joe Clark.

Newark Baseball trivia quiz

1. What two nationally recognized baseball teams played to sell-out crowds in Newark in the 1930's and 1940's.
2. Which former Yankee played on the Newark Bears in 1945 and went on to have one of baseball's greatest careers, including the most World Series rings (14) and the most world championships (10)?
3. Which Hall of Famer played first on the Newark Eagles, broke the color barrier in the American

League as a NY Giant, and was part of the first all black outfield in 1951, along with Willie Mays and Hank Thompson?

4. Name the trailblazing businesswoman who owned the Newark Eagles along with her husband, and played an important role in changing the face and history of professional baseball?
5. Name the Yankee owner who also owned the Newark Bears.

Answers next week.

Sports Shorts



The New Jersey Cardinals baseball team is seeking player's ages 14 and 15. The season will include Sunday double-headers, holiday weekend tournaments and an all-star game in pro stadium. If interested call (732) 750-6506

The Garden State Reds baseball organization is now holding try outs for players ages 15 and 16. These teams will play Sunday double-headers and play in tournaments. If interested call (732) 750-6506

The Garden State Yankees baseball team is in need of players 18 and up to play in a wood bat Sunday Double-header League. The team will play in tournaments and play in Pro stadiums.

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